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		STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD	
8		IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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13	HEARING RE PROPOSED UPDATE OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER		
14	ACT SECTION 303(d) LIST, at 222 North Vineyard Avenue,		
15	Ontario, California, at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, May 30,		
16	2002, before Linda L. Jackson, CSR No. 2985		
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24	Reported by:	Linda L. Jackson, CSR NO. 2985	
25	Job No.:	02-23498	

Page 2 Page 4 1 **APPEARANCES** parties by region and waterbody. 2 2 Please be sure to indicate on the card the 3 3 region and the waterbody your comments are focused on. 4 PETE SILVA, Chairman 4 If you have not filled out a card and would like to 5 DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF 5 speak, please let our staff know. 6 Ken Harris 6 The hearing will not be conducted in accordance 7 Craig J. Wilson with the technical rules of evidence. We will accept 8 Melenee Emanuel any testimony that is reasonably related to the 303(d) 9 Diane Beaulaurier list review. Written and oral comments are all part of 10 Laura Sharpe 10 the record. If needed, the state board members or staff 11 Tim Stevens 11 may ask questions to clarify the testimony presented. OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL 12 12 To expedite today's proceedings I will limit 13 Michael Levy 13 oral presentations to no more than five minutes. If a 14 14 speaker before you has addressed your concern please 15 15 state your agreement and please don't repeat the testimony. 16 16 17 17 Today's hearings will focus on comments 18 18 pertaining to the following sections of the report: 19 19 Region 4, L.A. region, Region 7, Colorado River, Region 8, Santa Ana, and Region 9, San Diego. 20 20 21 21 Testimony will not be limited to these sections 22 22 so feel free to discuss any aspect of the proposed 23 23 revisions to the 303(d) list. 24 ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2002 24 The administrative record for this hearing will 25 25 9:15 A.M. remain open until June 15, 2002, so you have a couple Page 3 Page 5 1 1 weeks left. 2 2 MR. SILVA: First of all, I apologize for my Following the close of the record, state board 3 voice. I'm fighting a cold here. Good morning. This 3 staff will review and respond to all comments in 4 is the time and place for a public hearing by the state writing. Written responses will be included in the 4 5 board regarding the proposed 2002 update of the Federal 5 final staff report. Clean Water Act Section 303(d)list. Any substantial changes made as a result of 6 6 7 This is the final day of three days of planned 7 comments received will be presented in a revised staff 8 hearings on the 303(d)list update. The purpose of this 8 report. This revised staff report will be made 9 hearing is to solicit comments on the draft staff report 9 available to interested parties before the final 303(d) entitled "Revision of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) 10 10 list is considered for adoption by the state board. List of Water Quality Limited Segments," dated 11 11 Just some process. When you come up, please April 2nd, 2002. 12 12 before you give me your testimony please identify 13 I am Peter Silva, member of the State Water 13 yourself by name and address for the court reporter. Resources Control Board. I would also like to introduce And also, as I mentioned, we're going to give you five the staff who are primarily responsible for the 303(d) 15 15 minutes. We don't have a timer today so I have my list review and who will be assisting the board during 16 16 assistant here who will raise the green card when you 17 this process. 17 have one minute left and then will raise it again when 18 From the Division of Water Quality we have 18 your five minutes are done.

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the state board.

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Craig Wilson, Melenee Emanuel, Diane Beaulaurier --

And from the Office of Chief Counsel, Michael Levy.

The order of the procedure will be a brief

staff presentation, then testimony from interested

MR. SILVA: -- Laurie Sharpe, and Tim Stevens.

MS. BEAULAURIER: That's perfect.

I apologize for --

I would ask you to respect the time so we can

My name is Craig J. Wilson. I'm Chief of the

get all of you done in a decent time today.

With that, Craig, staff presentation.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Silva.

TMDL listing unit in the division of water quality in

Page 6 Page 8

For my presentation I would like to give you a brief overview of the requirements of Section 303(d) and a summary of the steps we have taken to develop the list.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires all states to identify and prepare lists of waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards with technology-based controls alone. This list is commonly called the 303(d) list.

According to federal regulations the 303(d) list must be updated in even numbered years. The last update took place in 1998. The 2000 update was exempted by federal regulation, and the current list is due for submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by October 1st, 2002.

The 303(d) list must identify each waterbody not meeting standards and the responsible pollutant. Priority rankings must also be assigned to each listed waterbody. These rankings identify the priorities for the development of total maximum daily loads, or TMDL's.

A TMDL is an allocation of pollutant loads and point and non-point sources, including natural background sources, and the margin of the safety.

The state's Porter Cologne Water Control Act requires that TMDL's be adopted as basin plan amendments

The draft staff report contains a description of the
 methodology and assumptions used to develop the state
 board staff recommendations.

The assumptions used in preparing the draft report were, one, the 1998 303(d) list would form the basis for the 2000 list update; two, the regional board recommendations to change existing listings would be considered by the state board; and, three, if insufficient information was available to list a waterbody it would be placed on watch list.

The staff report contains fact sheets for each proposed addition, deletion or change to the '98 list.

There are also fact sheets for many waters where new information was available but no change to the 303(d) list was recommended. These fact sheets describe the data and information on which the recommended action was based and the rationale for each listing decision. If the state board staff disagreed with the regional board recommendation an explanation was provided.

Listed waterbodies are ranked into high, medium and low priority categories for TMDL development. These priorities are assigned based on the significance of the waterbody, the degree of nonattainment of standards or loss of beneficial uses, the availability of funding, and the overall need for an adequate pace of TMDL

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and then a program of implementation be included.

In March of 2001 the state regional board sent solicitation letters to government agencies and other interested parties on their mailing list. These letters requested the recipient to submit any available surface water quality data and information to the appropriate regional board.

The information that was received in response to these solicitation letters as well as other information already available to the regional boards was used to assess the waterbodies for the 303(d) list update.

Regional board staff prepared draft reports and/or fact sheets that contain assessments of each waterbody. These regional board documents were made available for public comment. Each regional board held public workshops or board meetings with their recommendations for revision of the 303(d) list.

The regional boards then proposed their recommendations to the state board. Based on a review of the regional board recommendations, state board staff are proposing a number of additions, deletions and changes to the 1998 303(d) list.

The staff has developed a draft staff report that contains our recommendations for changing the list.

Page 9

1 development.

To summarize the state board proposal, there are 797 total recommendations, including 195 additions to the list, about 70 delistings, and 31 changes or clarifications to existing listings. There are also 177 waters recommended for the watch list.

So, in conclusion, we're looking forward to the testimony that will be presented in this hearing and I know that the comments will ultimately strengthen our program.

One last point. On May 15th the state board staff issued a letter reopening the solicitation for data and information because it had been so long in receiving new information. The hearing record for that reopened solicitation closes June 15, 2002.

Mr. Silva, this concludes my presentation. If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them now or during the hearing.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Those of you who just came in, if you want to fill out a card, if you want to speak, again, to staff.

Also there is a lot of chairs in front, like on Sundays.

Also before I get started just a couple of things I wanted to let you know. We did have -- on May 23 we had our first hearing. We had three regions,

Page 10 Page 12

Region 1, 2, and 3, and we went till about 1:00 o'clock

2 in the afternoon in the comments and we really

3 appreciate those comments. They are very valuable.

4 We had -- on May 24th we had two regions, 5 and 5 6. I believe we went till around noon, started at 9:00.

6 So that gives you an idea of the scope of the comments 7

that we've gotten from other regions. 8

And also I'm going to use my prerogative on the order that we go today. I want to give the people who traveled here -- probably like me -- I drove down from

San Diego -- I'm going to let Region 7 go first, 11

12 Region 9 second, Region 4 third, and Region 8 last. I

13 think that's fairer for people that had to make the trip

14 over here.

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With that, we'll start first Region 7,

16 Mr. Roger Henning, from Palo Verde Irrigation District.

MR. HENNING: I'm Roger Henning with Palo Verde Irrigation District in Blythe, California.

I was not aware of the change in dates for submittal of written information, but for this meeting

21 I'd like to submit a two-page letter regarding the

22 303(d) listing of Palo Verde Irrigation District's

23 outfall drain. Due to other activities we were not able

24 to meet prior submittal deadlines.

25 And the panel has it. community members that live along the areas Crosby

Street Park and the South Bay Power Plant. We're

3 recommending today that both of these areas are added on 4 to the 303(d) list.

5 I'm going to read some of the comments that

people from the community have sent with me who were not

able to be here today. As you can see, we drove about

two hours today, so it's very, you know, hard for

committee members to be able to leave their homes and to

10 be able to leave their work in the middle of the day to

11 come to hearings like this.

12 One of the comments from a 15-year-old youth

13 that works with us said, "I would like to have the

14 sediments in front of Crosby Street added as well as

South Bay's San Diego Bay added to the 303(d) list 15

16 because my father and I both like to fish and swim, but

17 I'm scared because I don't want any type of pollution

18 going in my lungs or in the fish we catch and eat. Also

19 I would like to see a healthy, rich wildlife community

20 and I would like to be able to kayak, sail, swim and

21 dive without risking my health in the bay." This is a

22 comment by Jim Hugh.

23 "As a child I visited the Crosby Street Park

and the pier and saw its bad water condition. It looked

25 as if mud was constantly being emitted, but in closer

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MR. SILVA: Have you submitted it already? 1

2 MR. HENNING: Yes, I have.

3 MR. SILVA: Okay. Good. Thank you.

4 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

5 MR. SILVA: Jose Angel, Region 7?

6 MR. ANGEL: Good morning, Vice-Chair Silva. My 7

name's Jose Angel, and I am the division chief of

8 watershed protection in Division 7. 9

Our request is pretty straightforward. We submitted comments to the 303(d) list, on the proposed

11 303(d) list, with your staff and I believe we're

12 required now to have provided further items as to how we 13 can go about to delist the New River from the list.

MR. SILVA: Okay. Any question from staff?

15 Okay. Thanks, Jose. Appreciate it.

16 Okay. That was fast. Anybody else from

17 Region 7? Last call.

18 Region 9. We will start with Nohelia Ramos

19 from the Health Coalition.

MS. RAMOS: Good morning. My name is Nohelia 20

21 Ramos. I'm from the Environmental Health Coalition.

22 Our address is 1717 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 100, San

23 Diego, California 92101. I'm here as an organizer for

the Clean Bay Campaign. 24

For the last four months I've spoken to

look proved it was the color of the water." This was a comment by Juan Jiminez. 2

3 A comment by Federica Martinez from Barrio

4 Logan says [Spanish] "My husband likes to fish in the

bay and we have no other bay to go and swim in."

Thank you very much for your time.

MR. SILVA: Did you submit written comments?

8 MS. RAMOS: These are the written comments that 9

were sent, that were mailed in.

10 MR. SILVA: Okay. Thank you.

11 Bruce Reznik?

12 MR. REZNIK: Good morning. I'm Bruce Reznik,

13 executive director of San Diego Baykeeper, also a member

14 of the AB 982 public advisory group. Our address is

15 2924 Emerson Street, Suite 220, San Diego, California

16 92106

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First I'd like to thank the state board and the regional boards for their hard work on this list. I

18 19 think certainly in Region 9 it's much appreciated.

20 We've had a long history of lagging behind other regions

21 in our listing, something that I think started to be

22 taken seriously in the '98 process and is continuing

23 here.

24 I'd also like to thank the state board for the

25 process itself and the input we've been allowed to

Page 14 Page 16

provide both the regulated community and the 2 environmental committee.

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Lastly, for the extension of the comment period. We'll be getting some more written comments in. That is greatly appreciated as well.

The good thing from our side for this listing is, as I said, in Region 9, historically so underlisted, we are finally starting to see this taken seriously.

We had almost 70 new additions to the list. Considering we only had 36 impaired waterbodies listed before, which was a gross undercounting, we're starting to get where we need to be.

And in particular I was very happy to see the San Diego River, something we worked hard on, at least some of the stretches of the river, on the new list and listed in the draft listing. Hopefully that'll stay on.

Some of the bad with the list. Just wanted to point out there are some stretches of San Diego River where we submitted extensive comments that were not listed, and we'd like to still push for that.

21 We're also pushing for south portions of San 22 Diego Bay, which I know already has been mentioned a little and I think Al from the EHC is going to cover at 23 24 more length.

Some more general comments you've heard already

zero on that. I know our regional board is working hard but obviously that's something that's continuing to be a 3 frustration for us.

And, lastly, I just want to touch on Table 5, which is completion dates. Once again San Diego seriously lacks in having a lot of completion dates and we tend to backload all our dates, which is again of great concern to San Diego Baykeeper, that we continue to push things further and further out.

I suspect in upcoming years we're going to get more and more waterbodies listed as our monitoring programs increase. The more we backload the more certain we are not going to meet our deadlines in getting our waters restored in San Diego. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: We got a lot of comments on the issue of the watch list. Helen -- I can't read it.

17 MS. BOURNE: Hello. My name's Helen Bourne and 18 I'm also with Environmental Health Coalition and I 19 live -- my address is 7040 Avenida Encinas in Carlsbad.

And I would like to ask you to please list Crosby Street Park. This is a neighborhood park for three heavily populated communities. And this is their view.

24 I have some pictures. I have copies of these photos if I could submit them after this.

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from, I think, a lot of the environmental community. We are not supportive of the watch list concept. It is our fundamental belief if you've got evidence you should list. The watch list, as I've said in Tag meetings -it's not that I don't support a watch list. I think the watch list refers to every waterbody in the state and we still have a lacking of a statewide ambient monitoring program. We need to focus on that.

Every waterbody in California not only should be being watched but is legally required under the Clean Water Act to be watched. So this concept of a watch police we're very frightened is going to be manipulated. Waterbodies I think there is sufficient evidence for listing -- and I think South San Diego Bay is actually a perfect example -- are going to get stuck on a watch list. Nothing is going to happen.

Probably the concern is greatest on San Diego which has the greater number of waters on the watch. I didn't get to count them all but I think we have almost 70 on our watch list. It's six pages of like a ten-page watch list. So it's of great concern to us.

22 The only things that I was just going to point 23 out in looking through this fairly extensive 303(d) 24 listing in San Diego is the table -- I believe it's 25

Table 6 -- TMDL's completed. Region 9 is still a big

Page 17

There is demonstrated toxicity and chemical contamination in the sediments along this park up into the 10th Street -- 10th Avenue Pier. And it just -- I mean there's mothers, babies, and you can smell the toxicity from this park.

And I would also like to comment briefly on South San Diego Bay along by the South Bay Power Plant. Because of the overheating of water that's heated-up bay water every day, something like 601 gallons per day goes through this. And it also has chlorine, very heavily chlorinated, and this is really causing problems with the ecosystem and with San Diego Bay of toxicity. All right. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Was that Felicita Creek? MS. BOURNE: No, that's a separate one. MR. SILVA: Okay. Thank you. Laura Hunter? MS. HUNTER: Yes. My name's Laura Hunter. I am director of the Clean Bay Campaign for the Environmental Health Coalition. And just to clarify your question, Felicita Creek is a different creek. I wish that I could actually speak about that a little today.

23 But the Crosby Street designation, basically 24 what we're asking is that you would extend an existing 25 303(d) listing of contamination near the shipyards. And Page 18 Page 20

unfortunately -- I wish I had a map. The designation kind of stops right at the southern boundary of the park where people start using it. It really needs to be extended to include the park so it goes up to what we call the south end of the 10th Avenue.

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So it's really an extension of the current listing that we have for -- it's called near the shipyards, I think, or near the Coronado Bridge and that's the Crosby Street. And that -- maybe I'll start with that one.

We really feel strongly that the evidence is in the record to show that that area has beneficial uses that the public want to express there, fishing and swimming, and they are not able to. As you've heard from both the testimony, the written comments and the photos, people do swim there. They do fish there. And they are not supposed to because the quality of the sediment, the quality of the water, isn't high enough.

18 19 I am also carrying with me today a letter from 20 Councilman Ralph Inzunza of the city council of San 21 Diego who has asked that you seriously consider adding this area that is in his district. Again, if you know 22 23 that community it's heavy urbanized, underneath freeway 24 overpasses that were built in the community. This is 25 one of their only direct contacts with nature, the

time.

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The Fish and Wildlife Service says "We're very concerned that the hot water and the current condition of the ecosystem is impacting eel grass beds."

I think it's also interesting that in one of the testing events that the power plants did in their discharge channel they got very, very high copper, like 26 micrograms per liter, something like that, and they said, well, that's because we just had a rain and it churned up the sediments and the sediments are loaded with copper.

Well, okay. Then I think probably it's their copper that was there that they discharged from before But either way, the area's heavily impacted and needs to be listed on the 303(d).

The last thing I want to raise on this one is that if you look at other power plants and other similar situations in the state, such as the Morro Bay, the Duke power plant at Morro Bay, I mean the CEC staff made a finding on April 25 that basically concluded that the Morro Bay ecosystem has been in a state of chronic estuarine degradation for five decades.

That's what we have in South San Diego Bay too. It's worse for us because our power plant's not at the mouth of a very active ocean environment. It's at the

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environment, and should be a swimmable, fishable area. 1

And it really needs to be listed. Maybe it's not the most toxic spot we can find in the bay. Unfortunately there's probably others that are worse. This is one of the most used areas by the public and therefore it's really not meeting its use.

The other area we wanted to focus on is South San Diego Bay where the power plant is. We did submit a deadly power into the record which is a compilation of all the data that's existing that we could find that talks about the impacts, and I could review some of those issues that were raised in there. I don't think I need to.

But I do want to point out that since then the regional board has issued -- in fact I just received this yesterday -- a 13267 compliance letter directing Duke Power to undertake six studies based on the findings where essentially they reviewed it and they pretty much agree with us to the power plant is causing impacts.

21 There is a degraded benthos in the South Bay --22 let me get another -- it's clear that there are 23 detrimental impacts from the South Bay discharge on the biological communities within the eastern portion --24 25 this reading from a regional water board letter at this

Page 21 end of a 14-mile-long bay where it takes a month for the water to change out. So that power plant just keeps

3 recycling and sterilizing that water for a month before 4

those species get to leave.

The halibut issue is also very important and the evidence in the record is clear halibut are reduced use of that area because of the conditions of it today.

The last thing I would say on Felicita Creek. I can speak from personal experience. That is near my house. And that creek really needs to be listed. We also -- it takes very high sediment loads from the area too. There is agriculture in that area; there's a toxic waste cleanup, Chatham Brothers is upstream from poor old Felicita Creek; pool discharges -- all kinds of things go into the creek. It runs foamy a lot of the time. And we would really support keeping that on the list.

So please keep everything on the list that's there but please elevate these two, Crosby Street and South San Diego Bay, to be added to the list. Thank you.

22 MR. SILVA: Next, Richard Gilb, Port of San 23 Diego.

24 MR. GILB: Good morning, Mr. Silva. I'm 25 Richard Gilb with the Port of San Diego, 3165 Pacific Page 22 Page 24

Highway, San Diego 92001.

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I'd like to reiterate some of the comments that we previously submitted in writing on a letter dated May 23.

First of all, we'd like to thank the region staff for hard work in putting the list together. But we'd like to discuss three sites that were proposed at changes to the 1998 list, namely, San Diego Bay Kellogg Street Beach, San Diego Bay Shelter Island Shoreline Park and San Diego Bay Coronado.

Region 9 staff has proposed that these three sites be incorporated as changes, and we ask that they be incorporated as new listings for the following reasons: Namely, there was no water quality sample data collected at these three sites during the 1998 listing process. The data collected in 1998 was from different hydrologic sub-areas than the areas that were listed in 2002, namely, that was for Kellogg Street Beach and

19 Shelter Island Shoreline Park. 20 As far as the San Diego Bay Coronado site, we'd 21 ask for some more clarification in the name, that it be 22 listed as San Diego Bay Coronado Tidelands Park, and the data that is used to indicate that as a change was 23 collected also in the year 2000 and it was for Pacific 25 Ocean. So we believe that because of the different

of Aliso Creek for toxicity based entirely on three 2 sample dates in 1998 and 1999, which involved analysis 3 for two different biological organisms, and the reports 4 of which -- the results of which were described in the 5 study funded by a 205 J grant.

However, the staff report inappropriately summarizes the studies' detailed statistical discussion in a way that overlooks some of the data and mixes apples and oranges to give a very misleading impression.

What the study does say is this: For the first organism, which is a juvenile fathead minnow, basically a baby fish, under low flow conditions there was no. zero, inhibition of growth or survival in any of the four sampling locations in the creek. These four 100 percent survival tests were completely ignored by the regional board staff in calculating the statistics presented in your staff report.

Storm event survival of minnows at the creek headwaters, in a storm event at the creek headwaters, where is there no urban influence, was equal to the lowest survival rate downstream in the first storm event that was measured. And it was actually lower in the second storm than three out of the four urban impacted sampling sites downstream.

The basin plan states that survival of aquatic

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waterbodies it should be listed as a new addition, not as a change.

Finally, even though we've asked that Kellogg Street Beach be shown as a new listing we also ask that it be removed from the list because we believe the impairment there is related to sewage spills. We submitted some data with our written comments which seemed to indicate that. And the 303(d) process and the TMDL process is directed at items that aren't already under regulation and, we believe that sewage spills are currently regulated by the regional board.

The reason we believe these are important to list these as new additions, as not changes, because it seems to show that local government, municipals, may have ignored these sites in the past if they are shown as changes to '98 when they are actually new additions. Thank you.

18 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Nancy Palmer?

19 20 MS. PALMER: My name is Nancy Palmer. I'm the 21 city watershed manager for the City of Laguna Niguel. 22 I've come to speak about Aliso Creek, which is proposed 23 to have additional listings for toxicity and phosphorus.

First I'd like to speak about the proposed toxicity listing. The staff report recommends listing life in surface waters subjected to a waste discharge shall not be less than that for the same waterbody in areas unaffected by the waste discharge. Therefore, for juvenile fathead minnows, at least, no toxicity as defined in the basin plan was clearly demonstrated by that 205 J study.

The second organism, which is Ceriodaphnia, which is a type of a water flea, for the first storm the survival at the un-urbanized headwaters was only 5 percent, which is not a whole lot higher than the zero percent that was shown at all four of the downstream urbanized locations for that storm event.

For the second storm event, Ceriodaphnia survival was completely erratic over the length of the stream: 100 percent at the headwaters, zero percent at the next site downstream, 100 percent again at the next site and zero percent at the one below that.

What does that really mean? These data are inadequate for deciphering whether Ceriodaphnia survival is less in Aliso waters affected versus unaffected by urban runoff, which is a critical aspect for defining toxicity under the basin plan.

23 Furthermore, the staff report also inaccurately 24 states that the 205 J study indicated that 25 organophosphate pesticides are a significant component

Page 26 Page 28

of the aquatic toxicity in those storm samples. In fact the 205 J study did not conduct any sampling for organophosphates at all, merely speculates on possible sources of toxicity.

No confirming tests were completed to determine why the Ceriodaphnia died in Aliso Creek. It is theoretically possible that something in the natural background of storm flows in the un-urbanized watershed may be at least partly responsible for the observed mortality.

Much more toxicity data will be forthcoming in this watershed next year under the new Region 9 NPDES permit requirements. If watershed sampling in the coming year under the new permit requirements confirms

that toxicity is an issue, I would hope that follow-up
 studies would be conducted to determine the cause. That
 would be an obvious next step.

For now, the city recommends that putting Aliso
Creek on the watch list for toxicity is a more
appropriate step.

That's all I have to say.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

23 Richard Watson?

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creek is not eutrophied.

24 MR. WATSON: My name is Richard Watson, with

25 Richard Watson and Associates, 21922 Viso Lane, Mission

The first sentence of the report's executive
summary region board staff stated that Rainbow Creek's
listing is, quote, for eutrophication; then one
paragraph later noted that eutrophic conditions have not
be observed in the creek. This fact is repeated later
in the report. The listing for eutrophication is not an
accurate reflection of the condition of the creek. The
current listing is unfounded and should be changed.

A listing for nutrients for Rainbow Creek is also inappropriate. Waterbody listings that are ultimately used to develop TMDL's must be based on data with respect to the exceedances of load allocations and waste load allocations for a given waterbody. Allocations can only be developed after the assimilative capacity, or loading capacity, of the waterbody has been identified. No such identification has been made for Rainbow Creek because the necessary studies have not been performed.

In fact, EPA Region 9 in its comments on this
draft TMDL said that, quote, "Regional board must change
its approach to defining the loading capacity and TMDL
for nitrogen."

EPA urged the San Diego regional board staff to

EPA urged the San Diego regional board staff to directly determine the loading capacity by starting with the desired water quality objectives and using stream

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Viejo, California.

Good morning, Member Silva. I'm here today representing Hines Nurseries. Like to give you a few comments regarding the 2002 Clean Water Act 303(d) list as it pertains to Rainbow Creek.

On May 9, 2002, the San Diego regional board heard a proposed nutrient TMDL for Rainbow Creek and voted unanimously for a continuance to await state board decision on this list and to allow the staff more time to prepare better data.

The San Diego regional board staff had stated in their staff report on their 2002 update of the 303(d) list that, quote, "The impairment for Rainbow Creek has been changed from eutrophication to nitrate and phosphorus. The original designation was based on a faulty assumption that eutrophic conditions existed because of elevated levels of nutrients."

because of elevated levels of nutrients."
Regional board staff, in noting that the
current designation was faulty, attempted to simply
change it themselves rather than submit a recommendation
for change to the state board. Rainbow Creek is on the
1998 list for eutropic conditions. However, in the San
Diego regional board staff report for the proposed TMDL,
regional board staff acknowledged several times that the

Page 29

flow records to calculate loading capacity and TMDL'sfor total nitrogen and total phosphorus. This requested

3 change presents an opportunity to strengthen the

4 scientific basis for a Section 303(d)listing and to 5 institute adaptive management as recommended

institute adaptive management as recommended by theNational Research Council.

Due to the numerous data gaps with respect to the nutrient data, no 303(d) listing is currently appropriate for Rainbow Creek. Hines Nurseries recommends instead that it be delisted for

eutrophication and placed on the watch list fornutrients.

This will allow regional board staff to conduct studies necessary to determine the status of Rainbow Creek and help insure that any future TMDL will accurately reflect the condition and listing status of the waterbody.

Thank you for this opportunity.

MR. SILVA: Thank you very much.

20 Before I go to the next speaker I want

21 everybody to know as far as timing it looks like -- even

the number of cards -- we probably won't be done with Region 9 until about 10:30, and Region 4 we've got about 10:30.

Region 9 until about 10:30, and Region 4 we've got about an hour and a half worth of cards, so probably it won't

25 get done until about noon, so you can time yourself

Page 30 Page 32

accordingly.

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If you're here for Region 8, if you want to do something else, looks like we won't get to you until lunchtime. I'm going to work through lunch if you don't mind. I'm going to work through lunch to try to get done.

Again, Region 9 will probably go till about 10:30, Region 4 until about noon. That's just an estimate, just to give you some timing. If you want to sit here and be bored all morning, it's up to you.

Okay. George Wilkins?

MR. WILKINS: Good morning. My name is George Wilkins. I'm here representing the San Luis Rey Watershed Council.

The San Luis Rey Watershed Council is an organization -- it's a stakeholder organization in this northern San Diego County and we have about 120 member organizations that belong to us.

19 I'm the former watershed coordinator for the 20 council and I was asked to speak on behalf of the 21 council specifically for the San Luis Rey, but I believe 22 that our concerns apply to some of the other watersheds 23 in San Diego County.

Our council is comprised of over 120 member organizations, including local, state, federal

website you can see that most of the water that is sold retail throughout the county that comes from MWD and 3 wholesale procured County Water Authority is between 467 4 and about 600 parts per million.

5 In the San Luis Rey watershed we have a basin plan standard that sets the limit at 500 parts per million, and that is for municipal water supply as 8 beneficial use. We also have listed as beneficial use 9 of agriculture, and the standard for is that much 10 higher. It's about 1500 parts per million.

Our primary concerns are that listing of the San Luis Rey River and other watersheds in San Diego county for these constituents will have an adverse impact on the large agricultural community in San Luis Rey River and other parts of northern San Diego county.

And we're concerned that it will also present a conflict with other goals of the state for water supply. With the issues that are going on right now with the 4.4 agreement, the water supply is a big concern right now. What we're concerned about is by listing this now it may complicate other issues, especially water supply issues, even more.

The reason for this primarily are that we do import high TDS water into the watershed in San Diego County. As I stated, the basin plan standard is 500

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organizations, special districts, nonprofit

organizations and seven native American tribes. And we

3 have concerns specifically about proposed listings for

4 TDS and chlorides for the San Luis Rey and for other

parts of the San Diego County, although our primary

concern is for San Luis Rey watershed. 6

We respectfully request the state water resource control board not include the proposed regional board recommendations for listing San Luis Rey for total dissolved solids and for chlorides. Our reasons for taking this position are several.

The main reason is that we believe and the analysis has shown so far that the primary source of TDS and chloride that's coming into San Diego County is from imported water. We receive about 90, 95 percent of our water supply from a combination of Colorado River water and Northern California water. About 70 percent comes from the Colorado River, about 30 percent from Northern California, and the Colorado River water is very high in TDS and chloride, so the water that comes into San Diego County is already very high.

23 This is something that was decided that we would actually speak very recently, but if you look at records 25

from County Water Authority that are available on their

And I didn't submit written comments to this.

Page 33

parts per million but the water coming in is already at 2 or near the basin plan limits. In many cases it's

3 actually over it. That means when people use water for

4 irrigation, for watering their lawns, it will basically 5

already exceed the basin plan.

Our primary concern is that if agriculture cannot comply with regulations because the water there is derogating without putting fertilizer or anything else in it, if it exceeds the standards they may not be able to stay in business, and we would prefer to have agriculture than to see homes replace that land.

It's a complicated issue. We would really request that you look at this, perhaps put us on the watch list. We would like to see the TDS and chloride levels decrease, but we think it will be a long-term solution with desalinization and conservation and other things that would actually help. So we appreciate your hearing our request. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you. Okay.

20 MR. WELCH: Thank you. My name's Mike Welch, 21 2735 San Clemente Terrace, San Diego.

Today I'm here with a group of other speakers that will be representing a group in San Diego called the San Diego County 303(d) work group. This group includes the County of San Diego and a variety of water Page 34

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agencies, waste water agencies, storm runoff agencies and other interested groups.

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We will be speaking about the number of issues today but principally our concerns are thus: The 303(d) and TMDL processes we believe are very important and appropriate for dealing with waterbodies where we're not attaining beneficial uses, where they are not meeting fishable and swimmable, et cetera.

We disagree, however, with diluting the 303(d) list down with parameters that don't have any effect on beneficial uses whatsoever.

TDS is one of those. San Diego regional board proposes that TDS be listed as a water quality limited segment for 11 different waterbodies and the San Diego County 303(d) work group believes it's neither appropriate or necessary to list those waterbodies as being water quality limited by TDS.

Further, such a listing will set in motion a series of steps, including TMDL processes, which cannot lead to any significant improvement in water quality but can lead to significant economic impacts and indeed water use restrictions.

23 For this reason we request that the state board 24 not list those 11 waterbodies as being water quality 25 limited for TDS. To understand the reasoning behind

solids in the entire region, didn't take into account economic and social factors associated with such imported water use, didn't recognize that water quality varies significantly from time of year, that in fact in certain times of year we don't have any water at all in our watercourses.

It also didn't recognize that there's significant interchange between ground and surface waters in the San Diego county flowing waters and that the basin plan groundwater quality objectives don't coincide with the surface water quality objectives.

All of these inconsistencies, however, were not taken into account in the original 1975 basin plan objectives for a couple of reasons. One is that at the time the regional board was only in the game of regulating point source discharges and so they didn't take a look at what the impacts would be associated with regulating non-point source activities, such as imported water use; and, secondly, one of the key justifications in the 1975 basin plan was that by assigning 500 milligram per liter TDS objectives it gave them a convenient tool for getting some of the then secondary waste water effluent discharges out of our streams and rivers.

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this we really need to go back and address how the basin plan TDS objectives were established in Region 9 in the first place.

4 They were originally established in 1971 in the 5 interim plan and then formally established in 1975 in the basin plan as sort of wouldn't it be nice if we 6 7 could attain water quality goals. The 500 milligrams 8 per liter TDS objective was assigned literally 9 regionwide and assigned on the basis that the secondary 10 nonenforceable drinking water standards for TDS were 500 11 milligrams per liter.

At the time they were assigned it was recognized that virtually all San Diego County waterbodies did not comply with this 500 milligram

limit, particularly during dry season years. 15

16 Nevertheless, it represented a reasonable wouldn't it be 17 nice if we could achieve goal.

In assigning these water quality objectives the basin plan didn't take into account what the actual

20 beneficial uses were on any given watercourse, didn't 21

differentiate one watercourse's need from another, 22 didn't recognize the fact that particularly in the

23 1970's at the time the imported water supply TDS was 700

milligrams per liter, didn't recognize the fact that

25 imported water is the dominant source of total dissolved

original basin plan objectives have been established and regional board's role has expanded significantly.

More than 25 years has elapsed since those

Unfortunately, however, the basin plan has never been updated to reflect water quality TDS needs that are actually needed to protect beneficial uses. The regional board has continued this one size fits all approach for TDS basin plan objectives.

There is really only two instances where the regional board has changed basin plan objectives for surface waters in the last 25 years. Both of these were discharger-sponsored efforts and it's interesting to note in each of these instances -- one was the Santa Margarita River and the other was the San Diego River -the justification the regional board used for changing those was that the historical water quality greatly exceeded basin plan objectives and that the water quality needed to attain beneficial uses greatly exceeded the water quality objectives.

So in each of those instances the regional board agreed to modestly increase the TDS standards but still keeping them well below the historical water quality and the water quality necessary to attain beneficial uses.

Now we come and see that the very same data sets used to justify those basin plan changes back in

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1 the 1980's now are used as justification for the fact

- 2 we're not complying with appropriate water quality
- 3 standards. Such a decision doesn't take into account
- 4 the fact that beneficial uses are not being infringed
- 5 upon by the current water quality in our 11
- 6 watercourses. Indeed, in the case of the San Diego
- 7 River the one objection that was put in front of
- 8 regional board back in the 1980's to changing the basin
- 9 plan objectives was that good quality water that goes
- 10 down the river might actually be environmentally
- 11 advantageous because such low TDS water might affect the
- 12 salinity balance in the downstream estuary.

So we in the work group find it a little incredulous right now that the regional board proposes to do something it never did before, that is, list TDS as being water quality limited to a number of these segments.

We believe it's appropriate to use the rationale that the regional board used to develop past 303(d) lists for assessing impacts associated with total dissolved solids. In past 303(d) lists they took a look at what were actual beneficial uses, what were the sources of the total dissolved solids, and are the total

dissolved solids consistent with imported water quality.

25 The fact is they weren't.

interactions and influences that occur in the watersheds of San Diego County that prevent the attainment of basin plan objectives for TDS in the surface waters.

Those interactions include the interconnectivity of the groundwater and surface waters within the county, the seasonal nature of the precipitation in the region, and the use of imported water in the watershed as Dr. Welch talked about.

First I'd like to address the interconnectivity of the surface waters and groundwaters. The 11 watersheds proposed for this listing, for TDS, chloride and sulfate, that function as interconnected groundwater and surface water systems, these watersheds are full of alluvial materials that transmit and store large quantities of groundwater.

The ultimate fate of much of this groundwater is that it provides the base water for surface streams within the county. In fact groundwater base water accounts for nearly 100 percent of the base water in the surface streams during the dry season in San Diego County.

Interconnectivity of the groundwater and surface water systems in San Diego County is a completely natural phenomenon. The fact that this interconnectivity exists necessitates that the basin

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So they recognized there was no reason to put total dissolved solids on the 303(d) list because doing so would set forth a series of steps that would then lead to possible restrictions on imported water use.

We recognize now that the 303(d) list for total dissolved solids is a very, very important issue. We request that you take a look at historic water quality, take a look at consistency with imported water supply, and take a look at the water supply necessary to attain beneficial uses in the developing the 303(d) list.

11 Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

13 David Keith?

MR. KEITH: Good morning. I am here with the 303(d) San Diego County work group along with Dr. Welch to address TDS issues. I would like to talk about the hydrodynamic issues related to TDS in San Diego County primarily.

As part of our effort in this investigation we reviewed over 36 documents and database of the water quality related to surface water and groundwater for TDS and chloride and sulfate, and I'd like to point out that the chloride and sulfate issues essentially coincide with the TDS one-for-one.

There are several natural hydrodynamic

plan objective for groundwater and surface water arecompatible.

However, the Region 9 basin plan water quality objectives for surface water and groundwater are incompatible. For instance, in many watersheds the surface water the objectives are 500 milligrams per liter, whereas the groundwater objective is 15 milligrams per liter.

TDS concentrations of most of the watersheds vary from upstream to downstream. In fact all the watersheds. In general the TDS concentrations are near 500 milligrams per liter in the upper portions closest to the mountains where a natural recharge occurs. As you move closer to the coast TDS concentrations often exceed 1500 milligrams per liter due to the use of imported water, irrigation practices, intrusion of salt water from natural tidal influences.

And it's not reasonable to expect that surface water quality objectives can meet higher standards than groundwater quality objectives in the system when the systems are interconnected.

The second point I would like to address involves the seasonal nature of precipitation in the region. There is a consistent relationship between the magnitude of surface flow in San Diego county watersheds

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and the concentration of TDS, chloride and sulfate. TDS concentrations during periods of high flow typically will decrease compared to TDS concentrations during periods of low flow.

The TD concentrations during periods of low flow basically reflect the TDS concentrations down in the adjacent groundwater aquifers, with possible basin contributions. It is important to note that on a mass loading basis during periods of high flow during storm events the TDS concentrations actually decrease and in some cases attain the 500 milligram per liter objective. However, these are transient events. They represent the highest mass load coming out of those watersheds.

The final point I'd like to make is related to the influence of imported water and surface water on groundwater quality. As Dr. Welch indicated and also George Wilkins, 90 percent of the county's water demand is met by importing water from outside of the region.

The weighted average TDS concentration of all water supplies in the San Diego county water service area averaged approximately 510 milligrams per liter during 2001. The historic average from 1974 to 1979 was approximately 590 milligrams per liter. Both of these averages are well above the basin plan objectives already.

My comments today are intended to follow on those of Mr. Welch and Mr. Keith. They will be considerably shorter. They will address a few of the practical implications of proceeding with the proposed addition of 11 listings for total dissolved solids in the 2002 303(d) list for the San Diego region. If the state board supports these proposed listings, the potential impacts to local water use and water supplies are significant.

The San Diego region is a desert. Imported water's been our dominant source of water for more than 50 years. Today approximately 90 percent of the supply is imported. Imported water supplied by the San Diego County Water Authority provides most of the water that is required for municipal, agricultural and industrial applications throughout through the county.

Water from the Colorado River is the primary source of this supply. Over the past 20 years TDS concentrations in Colorado River water have averaged approximately 700 milligrams per liter. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates there is about a 61 probability that the TDS concentrations in the Colorado River will exceed 800 milligrams per liter by 2015.

It's crucial that the state board understands that to achieve target water quality improvements the

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The problem is when these waters are used in any kind of irrigation process, the effect of evaporative concentration automatically increases the TDS concentration of that water going in. Well, that water either infiltrates into the

Well, that water either infiltrates into the groundwater basins that recharge the rivers or it runs off the surface, direct runoff into the streams.

Should the proposed listings for TDS be upheld and the TMDL process be invoked, the logical conclusion of the listings are that the potential water supplies for the region would be severely restricted because of natural hydrodynamic circumstances that exist in the region.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the San Diego county water resources not be included on the proposed 303(d) list as being water quality limited due to TDS, chloride and sulfate. Instead we are proposing that the basin plan objectives be carefully evaluated in a manner so that they are consistent with the region's natural hydrodynamic factors. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: John Van Rhyn?

MR. VAN RHYN: Good morning. My name is John
Van Rhyn. I am with the County of San Diego in our
water quality program. My address is 1255 Imperial

25 Avenue, San Diego.

1 TMDL process will ultimately have to focus on reducing2 dissolved mineral loadings of imported water.

Because of the variety of the physical and environmental and economic factors, it's neither practical or achievable to reduce these concentrations by capturing and treating surface runoff or by piping these waters to the ocean for disposal.

Because of the dominant role that imported water plays on San Diego region salt loads and the interchange between ground and surface waters, there's really only three possible strategies for achieving meaningful TDS reduction in our surface waters.

The first would be to prohibit or significantly restrict the use of the imported water for landscaping, agricultural irrigation or other uses. This is not practical, not economical, not achievable.

The second of these would be to improve the TDS concentration in the water supply through demineralization. This is also not practical or economical. In addition to doubling the cost of water, demineralization would create a need to dispose of large quantities of brine.

The last of these options would be to improve the TDS concentrations by decreasing the amount of Colorado River water transmitted to San Diego County and

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increasing the amount of state water project supply water delivered to the county.

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As with the previous options this would be neither practical nor something over which we could really exercise any control locally.

Assuming for the moment that any of these strategies are technically or economically feasible it's further necessary to point out that they would not result in meaningful enhancements to beneficial use attainment.

No evidence has been put forward to demonstrate that existing TDS concentrations in receiving waters prevent or deter the attainment of existing beneficial uses. Currently the proposed listings are based solely on the attainment of antiquated water quality objectives.

However, existing basin plan TDS objectives do not represent any significant water quality threshold which if exceeded would deter or significantly affect the use of local waters for municipal or agricultural uses.

If the goal of the 303(d) and TMDL process is to protect the beneficial uses of receiving waters then these proposed listings are misdirected. In fact, it's likely that they will have the opposite effect desired.

is lacking in scientific assessment.

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The reports used to determine if beach segments are water quality limited specify the number of days per year that a beach segment had known exceedances of applicable bacterial standards as indicated by beach postings or closures.

The regional water quality control board did not differentiate between the effects of sewage spills and the effects of chronic indicator exceedances on coastal beaches. Three segments -- San Mateo Creek outlet, Bermuda Avenue/Ocean Beach and Kellogg Street Beach -- are proposed for inclusion on the 2002 303(d) list.

These are proposed new segment additions to the 1998 303(d) listed hydrologic units. The 303(d) work group obtained and analyzed monitoring data for bacterial indicators from the county of San Diego department of environmental health from 1999 to present.

This monitoring data was then represented graphically for each beach to visually identify trends and exceedances of water quality standards. Known dates of sewage spill incidents were also identified on each graph and the graphs and monitoring data are included in the submitted issues paper.

San Mateo Creek outlet is an excellent example

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Rather than resulting in enhancement of beneficial uses. 2 these listings will result in TMDL's that in turn can 3 only lead to significant water use restrictions, water 4 supply impacts and economic impacts.

Availability and beneficial use of San Diego County water supplies would be reduced by the proposed 303(d) listing, not increased.

To summarize, we again respectfully request that the San Diego County water sources not be included on the proposed 303(d) as being water quality limited due to TDS. And while the intention of staff in proposing these listings is laudable the cure in this case would be worse than the disease. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Sheri McPherson?

MS. MC PHERSON: Good morning. I'm Sheri McPherson. I'm with the County of San Diego department of environmental health and the water quality program.

I'm speaking today on behalf of the San Diego County regional 303(d) work group about their concern that beach segments are being inappropriately listed on the 303(d) list.

23 In addition the 303(d) work group has concluded that the San Diego regional water quality control board 25 use of their annual beach closure and advisory reports

of how misleading the use of annual beach closure

advisory reports can be. This beach segment is listed 2

for 15 days posted during 2000. These posting days

4 occurred March 6 to March 21st and are attributed to a

5 sewage spill caused by a power failure. The monitoring

data collected during this time exceeded water quality

7 objectives 15 times from March 7 to March 15. The

8 length of time the beach segment remained posted was not

only affected by exceedances but by sampling times,

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10 method results times, and staff availability.

When monitoring data from 1999 through 2001 are reviewed, there are no other exceedances of water quality objectives outside the before-mentioned time frame. The monitoring data intake that this was a one time event and not a chronic problem.

San Diego county area beaches are some of the most scenic and heavily used in the state and vital to the region's economy. It is critical that the health of these beaches be assessed in a scientifically valid manner so appropriate decisions can be made regarding watershed management and human health risks.

Sewage spills are a one-time point source event best addressed under other regulatory activity, not the 303(d) listing process. Beach closures and advisory reports are not an appropriate basis for listing.

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Instead actual bacterial indicator data should be used 2 to make decisions. Based upon an assessment of this 3

data the 303(d) work group does not believe that San

4 Mateo Creek outlet, Bermuda Avenue Beach and Kellogg 5

Street Beach belong in the Section 303(d) list and 6 request these locations be delisted.

In the future the San Diego regional water quality control board should review the actual monitoring data, collect this data, correlate this data with the annual beach closure advisory reports to determine the actual indicator exceedances and the true nature of bacteriological problems.

In addition we are going to submit some more data regarding 1998 listings that has been corrected from 1999 to present time with the extended date. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Lisa Kay?

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18 MS. KAY: Good morning. I am Lisa Kay, 19 representing the 303(d) work group for the San Diego 20 region. I am with MEC Analytical Systems, 2433 Impala

21 Drive, Carlsbad, California 92008. And I am here to

22 speak primarily about our concern with the listing of

23 Agua Hedionda Creek for diazinon.

24 This listing was based on six pieces of data 25 collected from 1998 through 2000 and the regional board

in the quantitation between the two columns in the GC. 2 What does this mean?

Analytical methodology requires, the EPA method requires, that two columns be used to avoid a false positive analysis and the dual columns require that the amylase ablute at different times on the chromatographic columns. So one column would have a peak at one point representing diazinon and the second column would have a peak at vet another point representing diazinon.

For these data points, there was greater than 25 percent difference between the quantitation in the primary and secondary columns. The EPA method recommends that this be flagged and the data be qualified. So those quantitations are not only estimates, but also don't meet the EPA method required quality assurance guidelines.

So of the six data points that were assessed, two were non-detect, four had reporting below the detection limit, were qualified as estimates, and further qualified as having QA issues with the difference between the columns. That leaves one data point that's acceptable that doesn't have OA issues, and this was reported as non-detect.

24 Further, there was no data that was evaluated -- and apparently perhaps unavailable -- to

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in their staff report has identified delisting factors

2 as including faulty data and defined faulty data as

3 including, but not limited to, improper QA QC procedures 4

or limitations relating to analytical methods that might 5 lead to improper conclusion regarding the water quality

6 status of a waterbody. 7

First of all, we all know that diazinon is being phased out. But, more importantly, these six sample points collected and evaluated by the regional board, of the six points five of the points are defined as -- what we define as false data, having QA problems.

All of data collected was analyzed using a GC method for the phosporus detector. And to understand how the data is faulty you first have to understand how the methodology works.

The analytical method achieved in that time period from 1998 to 2000 a detection limit of .5 parts per billion. The water quality criteria that defined as being being exceeded is .09 parts per billion.

Some of the data that's reported, three points -- four points, in fact -- were reported at below the detection limit and flagged in the data report as estimated values. Further, these estimated values also had some quality assurance issues related to them.

The quality assurance issues were a difference

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indicate invertebrate community impacts or aquatic 2 toxicity. That was not assessed as a part of the

3 listing.

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4 Now, the San Diego County is currently 5 monitoring this site, will continue to monitor the site, not only for diazinon but also for toxicity and upstream 7 in the watershed for invertebrate community impact.

We recommend this be removed from the list until additional data can be gathered to support a listing if it is warranted by science.

11 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Rosanna Lacarra.

13 THE WITNESS: Good morning. My name is Rosanna 14 Lacarra. I'm with the City of Carlsbad. I represent

15 the San Diego regional 303(d) work group. Address is

405 Oak Avenue in Carlsbad 92008. 16

17 I'm here this morning to cover a few points 18 regarding the listing in San Diego County watersheds for bacteria, phosphorus and diazinon. You've heard some 20 comments from my colleagues on bacteria and diazinon.

21 My comments are more general.

22 The concerns and issues that the work group has 23 identified are the need for a weight of evidence 24 approach to the listings in San Diego County, the 25 importance of a scientifically-based analysis of the

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data when listing for water quality limited conditions,

2 and, thirdly, we have concerns over the lack of a

3 comprehensive assessment of the data that would include

4 an examination of the required quality control and

5 assurance protocols followed by a statistical analysis

6 to validate the data sets as being comprehensive and 7

then applying it to determine the impairments.

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Also we have concerns over a review of spatial and temporal data to identify any gaps before listing any waterbodies. Examples of these things being overseen by regional board are the bacteria issues mentioned for San Mateo Creek outlet, Bermuda Avenue and Kellogg Street Beach closures where management tools such as precautionary beach postings or closures from known points for sewage spills are considered when the analytical data for those same events does not

17 demonstrate a continuing problem in the area. 18

Another example is listings for phosphorus for Santa Margarita River and the lower San Diego River,

20 which should be deleted from the proposed listing and

21 then Cloverdale Creek and upper Lake Hodges that is

22 recommended for the watch list. One of my colleagues

23 will be speaking to that phosphorus data. 24

And, lastly, you just heard Lisa Kay mention

25 Diazinon for Agua Hedionda Creek. We recommend it be

submitted to the regional board? Was that submitted and 2 it's in the record?

3 MS. LACARRA: Yes. It was submitted earlier 4 this month.

MR. WILSON: Thank you.

6 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Good morning. I am Jack Miller with the County of San Diego. I am a program manager for the water quality programs. And as many of the other speakers I'm representing the San Diego regional 303(d) work group.

Many of the speakers have addressed all of our comments. We have still to hear the phosphorus. In sort of a summation I would just like to ask you to consider some main points.

We agree that it is imperative to preserve our beneficial uses. We believe it's critical that good science be used in these listings. We agree with the staff report that the factors to be assessed for each listing include data quality and extent to which data quality requirements are met, linkage between measurements and beneficial use, utility of measure for judging of standards are attained, spatial and temporal representation, source of pollutants and availability of

25 alternative enforceable programs.

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placed on the watch list until additional qualified data and comprehensive reviews can be performed, and that's already underway.

4 In conclusion our solutions and recommendations 5 for future 303(d) listings -- and I speak on behalf of the San Diego regional 303(d) work group -- are simply 6 7 two: Requiring the proposed 2002 listing to meet the 8 guidelines proposed by the storm water quality task 9 force for impaired waterbodies work group in placing the 10 proposed waters on the watch list such that the storm 11 water co-permitees in San Diego and other interested 12 parties can apply a weight of evidence for the listings 13 using a comprehensive triad approach that considers three items: Water quality objectives, chemical and 15 physical determinations, toxicity effects, and the 16 community alterations prior to listing.

And lastly I'd like to mention that the watch list is an appropriate mechanism for waterbodies for which the weight of evidence has not been yet established. Thank you very much.

20 21 MR. SILVA: Thank you. Jack Miller?

MR. WILSON: Question, Mr. Silva?

23 MR. SILVA: Yes.

24 MR. WILSON: The last speaker and Miss Kay --25 are the quality assurance information -- is that already

We -- as far as the bacteria, we ask that we base it on monitoring data, not administrative actions that the County takes in taking advisory -- posting advisories or beach closures.

As far as the phosphorus, you will hear a little bit more on that in a few minutes. Based on the diazinon, QA QC. Again, good science. We ask for good science. We don't oppose the listing. We ask for it to be based on good science and data.

One other listing you haven't heard about is the proposed listing of Forrester Creek for pH and we believe it should not be pursued with the data that's available. The reasons are the elevated pH readings were taken at open exposed sections of concrete channel during summertime field-screening activities.

Conditions such as high temperature, photosynthesis and concrete conveyance drive up the pH levels. In addition, field-screening data is subject to variability and should not be used as a sole basis for the 303(d) listing.

On behalf of the County of San Diego and San Diego 303 regional work group we respectfully request you consider the information and the recommendations that we've all offered here verbally and our extensive written comments as presented, and consider it for your

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list. Thank you very much.

MR. SILVA: Thank you. 2

Larry McKenney?

4 MR. MC KENNEY: Good morning. My name's Larry 5 McKenney. I'm here representing the County of Orange.

6 I work for the Public Facilities and Resources

7 Department. I'm the watershed and coastal resources

8 division manager. So I'm not from the San Diego 303(d)

9 work group, I guess.

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I do have written comments that I'm going to submit today and I also want to point out that we did make written comments to the regional board and we've appended those to our more developed comments today.

14 I also have comments with regard to both Region 9 and Region 8. I don't know -- did you want me 15 16 to just do both of them together now?

17 MR. SILVA: It's up to you. Can you do it in 18 five minutes?

19 MR. MC KENNEY: I'll try.

20 As a general comment the County believes that 21 the approach to listing this year should be extremely 22 conservative. We know that the state is going to be 23 embarking on a process of writing a new policy this

year. We hope that that policy will be a forum to

25 address a lot of the concerns about process, data in South Orange County.

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The problem there is that we're using total phosphorus numbers. We think it would be more appropriate from a -- with respect to actual effects on beneficial use to look at dry season flows and not include wet weather data, because it's skewed by sediments lost and the phosphorus binding the sediment.

We lay out in our comments an alternative proposal for evaluating impairment based on phosphorus which we think is a better approach and we also recommend that those waterbodies that I just named not be listed for phosphorus this year on that basis.

We're also presented, as outlined in our written comments, that Dana Point Harbor not be listed for phosphorus. We believe that the proposed listing -excuse me -- for copper. We think that the copper listing proposed for Dana Point Harbor is based on misrepresented sediment data.

And I also wanted to make a comment about the proposed listing for San Onofre and San Mateo Creeks, the beaches there, as already addressed earlier. Just wanted to affirm that it doesn't seem like good public policy to list those beaches and force TMDL process when the problem is based on a single sewage spill.

With regards to Region 8 waterbodies, the most

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standards, quality control. And in light of that and the existing backlog of TMDL's, it seems appropriate 2 3 that the state should be extremely conservative on

adding new listings of waterbodies this year. So that's a general comment.

The second general comment I'd like to make is that the County of Orange supports the idea of a watch list. Particular comments on waterbodies. We have a recurring concern about bacterial standards. This applies to several waterbodies in Orange County, including Aliso Creek and Dana Point Harbor, for

11 12 example, where we have a variety of standards that are

13 being used and the EPA is recommending that we use 14 enterococcus. We're using total coliform now.

We just think standards ought to be clarified overall before we go back and list any of those waterbodies as being impaired because of bacteria or enterococci.

19 Particularly in Aliso Creek there is a proposed 20 listing for enterococcus and there is no standards for 21 enterococcus there right now. So that doesn't seem 22 appropriate.

23 There is another recurring standards problem 24 and that has to do with phosphorus, particularly in 25 Aliso Creek and in Prima and Segunda Deshecha watersheds important of those to us to comment on today is the

2 proposed listings for Santa Ana Delhi Channel. And

3 there are a variety of these waterbodies, small

4 waterbodies that are basically flood control channels, 5

in Region 8. Santa Ana Delhi is the poster child for this issue. 6

The problem there is that there's a real debate about whether there should be beneficial uses designated in these flood control channels. There are not

10 beneficial uses designated now to support a listing, and 11

to already try and do this is to put the cart before the horse. So we feel very strongly that the beneficial use

12 13 designation process should happen first and it is on the

14 Region 8 triennial review task list and then after the

15 beneficial use has been designated, the public hearing

16 process, we can go back and reconsider whether there's 17 impairment.

And with that I'll submit my written comments and I thank you for your time and for allowing me to move ahead.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

22 MR. LOPEZ: Good morning. My name is Cesar 23 Lopez. I am Senior Water Resources Specialist with the 24

San Diego County Water Authority. 25

I'm here today in support of the San Diego

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County regional 303(d) work group. I'm not with them but I feel that I like to support them. I'd like to support and echo the concerns of the work group and which is the concerns in the proposed 303(d) listings of San Diego County waterbodies as being water quality limited, most specifically through the TDS.

Again, I would like to reiterate that the San Diego County is highly dependent on imported water which is predominantly Colorado River water. And as we all know, it is relatively high in TDS.

11 Currently we are enjoying a good quality water 12 being at about 500 milligrams per liter with the 13 Metropolitan Water District's commitment to keep it at 14 that level. And they're able to achieve that by 15 blending Colorado River water 75 percent to 25 percent 16 Northern California water. That is achievable right 17 now.

As I said, we -- normally Colorado river TDS
levels range is at about 600. I believe it's about 600
right now. Colorado River water TDS has historically
been around 700 to 800 milligrams per liter, and as a
result the local supplies, the water supplies delivered
to San Diego, reaches levels at around 600 milligrams

per liter. That is way above the 500 milligrams per

25 liter limit for surface water.

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Authority, 610 West Fifth Avenue in Escondido. I would
 also like to address basin plan TDS objectives of 500
 milligrams per liter for surface waters and the effects
 that that level will have on the operations and

5 maintenance of the water delivery systems throughout the6 San Diego region.

Imported waters in San Diego County account for about 90 percent of our water supplies. These sources are from the Colorado River water, which currently has a TDS level of about 585 parts per liter and the state project water from Northern California, with a current TDS level of about 300 milligrams per liter.

Both for water availability and other water quality considerations, San Diego routinely receives a blend of about 75 percent Colorado River water and 25 percent Northern California water, with TDS levels of approximately 500 to 550 milligrams per liter.

There have been extended periods in the past where only Colorado River water was available and this has historically had levels of up to 650 to 700 milligrams per liter.

With all this said, water distribution systems throughout the County strive to make their systems safe and reliable. Routine maintenance of these systems

25 require draining and flushing pipelines, reservoirs, and

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That will definitely hurt San Diego region's
attempt to maximize reuse and beneficial reuse. San
Diego County Water Authority is promoting resue with
recycled water. Recycled water is also high in TDS,
considering how high the local supplies is, and once the
local water supply increase, recycled water will also
increase with the same increment, same levels.

Another projects that may be impacted by this future regulation is the development of groundwater resources. San Diego County Water Authority is dedicated and has a goal of developing local supplies to make it more reliable and be less dependent on imported water supplies.

The development of this local resources or local supplies are key elements to the San Diego County Water Authority's long-term goal and in its master plans.

So we respectfully would like to consider -- the board to consider the comments and recommendations of the work group. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Joe Wegand?

MR. WEGAND: Good morning. My name is Joe Wegand and I am representing the San Diego County Water other facilities, to inspect and maintain water quality
 and to perform repairs.
 The 500 milligram TDS objective would severe

The 500 milligram TDS objective would severely impact or eliminate our ability to perform these tasks and affect the critical functionality of the County's water system.

San Diego County Water Authority respectfully request that regulations on TDS be set to protect the environment and also allow us to maintain our critical infrastructure to San Diego's 2.8 million people. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

13 Scott Huth?

MR. HUTH: Good morning. I'm Scott Huth,
Public Services Director for the City of Coronado. You
need an address?

MR. SILVA: We got it here.

MR. HUTH: Okay. I'm here to speak on behalf of City of the Coronado on three issues. Actually started as two and I heard a third one with the earlier speakers dealing with South Bay.

We're happy to be here and we are in support the regional and the state board's recommend to delist Coronado's central beach or main beach.

Coronado has 28 miles of coastline and this one

Page 66 Page 68

particular area is a one-mile stretch of coastline which 2 is probably the most extensively monitored coastline in San Diego County in term of water quality and I think we 4 provided sufficient information over a two-year period 5 to demonstrate that.

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The listing came about as part of an operational dewatering program that we had that we since discontinued 30 months ago and we continue to sample the water and show that the water is clean off the coastline in that particular area.

The second item is dealing with the new proposed designation of San Diego Bay Coronado. What we prefer is that the designation be defined in the actual area, which is Tidelands Park. The extent of impairment is two-tenths of a mile as opposed to four-tenths of a mile. That's important to us to have that really well defined.

We have 20 miles of coastline on the San Diego Bay and we don't want to have a misconception that all 20 miles of San Diego Bay in Coronado city limits should be on a listing. So I want to clear that up today.

21 22 The third item is the concern about South Bay. 23 And I didn't hear a lot of specificity about that, so 24 since Coronado has a significant amount of coastline in 25 the South Bay area, I do know that there is no data

1 I would like to first mention that the state 2 board staff report lists a series of 13 criteria for judging the appropriateness of any particular listing. 4 These criteria include things like the spatial and 5 temporal representativeness of data sets, data quality and the availability of alternative enforceable programs 6 7 for attaining water standards.

My comment will be directed towards these judging criterias as they appear in the state board's staff report.

The upper Santa Margarita River and the lower San Diego River listings both ignore the existence of an alternative enforceable strategy for biostimulatory substances that is outlined in chapter four of the San Diego basin plan.

There is in fact in the basin plan an alternative enforceable program developed by the regional board and outlined in chapter four in place for both the upper Santa Margarita River and the lower San Diego River. We believe that this alone is enough justification for deleting these listings.

I'd also like to point out that we received some additional data from the Rancho California Water District and we'll be be submitting that data -actually we already submitted that data -- and that data

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supporting a listing in our city limits in the coastline 2 in the South Bay Area and I think that the issue that's

3 being raised is really around the power plant as opposed 4 to Coronado's side of the South Bay. So I wanted to

5 make that clear too for the board. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

That's all the cards I have. Is there anybody else that wishes to speak on any item on Region 9?

MR. KLEIN: Eric Klein.

10 MR. SILVA: Did you fill out a card? 11

MR. KLEIN: I filled one out, but --

My name's Eric Klein. I'm with the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, and I'm sorry, Mr. Silva, but I also am with the San Diego regional 303 work group.

I would like to direct my comments to four proposed listings for elevated total phosphorus in San Diego County. The waterbodies in question are the upper Santa Margarita River, the lower San Diego River, Cloverdale Creek and Lake Hodges.

We have done quite a bid of study of the staff report and looked at the water quality data. We've talked to staff, we've reviewed the basin plan very carefully and we've concluded that there are problems with each of these four proposed listings.

indicated that total phosphorus levels at two downstream 2 stations on -- within the proposed listing segment on

3 the Santa Margarita River the data showed that it was

actually within the .1 water quality goal for total 5 phosphorus. The bottom line is is that these two

listings in particular should be deleted from the 6 7 proposed list.

Far as Lake Hodges and Cloverdale Creek, after studying the proposed listings we believe that the Lake Hodges data is not a spatially representative data set and the Cloverdale Creek data set does not meet the requirements of a temporally representative data set.

The Cloverdale Creek data set is also very small, only eight observations for the entire set. So there are fundamental serious flaws in the data set.

We are also very concerned that the use of total phosphorus by itself is a very poor measurement of beneficial use impairment. Without going into detail we know there are many researchers who have questioned the use of a .1 milligram per liter standard in flowing waterbodies. This is essentially a one size fits all approach and it's not appropriate.

Each waterbody's different and should be judged 23 24 differently. What we would suggest is that in 25 combination with measures like total phosphorus you also Page 70 Page 72

would use things like orthophosphate, the presence or absence of algae, excessive fluctuations of dissolved oxygen, other measures that could corroborate with elevated total phosphorus that would indicate that there is a actual beneficial use impairment. This was not done with any of these listings.

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I would also like to briefly mention that we would like to see the regional board use a more rigorous statistical analysis approach. The methods used in the development of these listings are oversimplified and basically they are lacking.

In summary, the proposed listings for the upper Santa Margarita River and the lower San Diego River should be deleted because there is an existing alternative enforcible water quality compliance program for these two waterbodies that is clearly outlined in the basin plan.

We respectfully ask state board staff to please read the San Diego basin plan, chapter four, pages 4.36 through 4.38 before deciding whether to adopt these listings. TMDL's are appropriate only when other regulatory compliance measures are shown to be ineffective and that is clearly not the case here.

Lake Hodges and Cloverdale Creek should be placed on the 303(d) watch list and re-evaluated when

the fire over the 303(d) listings and those issues and rightfully so. In response the listing process was necessarily rushed to avoid litigation. In doing so it 4 appears to me that a significant number of receiving 5 water reaches may have been nominated based on limited anecdotal information or insufficient data.

It can be argued that it is better to be environmentally conservative and list on the least amount of evidence. On the other hand, it can be equally argued that the list should be based on reasonable information and objective standards.

The regulated community has been awakened to the necessity of insuring clean receiving waters and that's been mentioned here a number of times today. Indeed, the efforts that have been undertaken to date would never have been contemplated a couple of years ago.

Given that, it seems reasonable to back up perhaps a half a step and get the 303(d) listings process right. Establishing that watch list allows this to be done. But the watch list would need to have the following attributes. It would place questionable reaches of referring waters on notice for approximately two years or until the time of the new 303(d) listings. This would give the regulated parties time to provide

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representative data set of adequate size can be 2 developed.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide these 4 comments and I hope that the state board will give them 5 serious consideration. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you. 6

MR. WILSON: One question.

MR. SILVA: Sorry. Staff has a question.

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9 MR. WILSON: Are you going to submit written 10 comments from the work group or have you submitted them?

MR. KLEIN: We submitted them. They were 11 12 submitted on the 16th.

13 MR. WILSON: Okay. Very good. Thank you. 14 Okay.

MR. SILVA: Last call for Region 9.

16 MR. BARNETT: Yes. Arthur Barnett. My name is 17 Arthur Barnett. I'm from MEC Analytical Systems, and

18 today I am actually representing myself even though I am

19 a member of that 303(d) work group, but also I've been

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to public advisory groups and spent a lot of time

21 attending TAG's. And these comments relate to what I've

22 gleaned and gathered through all of those meetings and

having thought about the problem. 23

I'd like to speak in support of the watch list.

The environmentalists have held the regulatory feet to

sufficient data to determine whether a listing was 2 called for.

Now, we have heard in many other meetings that the regulating bodies have said, well, why should we go out and hang ourselves on our own petard, and the answer is possibly in this third issue, and that is if insufficient data were obtained in that two-year time period then the waterbody would be listed by default. That gives the impetus that's needed. Establishing a watch list has the following

advantages: It provides the regulators an opportunity to make the listing process systemic and objective. It provides an opportunity to obtain sufficient relevant data to determine whether a listing is necessary. If the default listing step were included in the process, it involves a strong impetus to obtain the relevant data and that is a task that the regional board would welcome, especially Region 9. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Last call for Region 9.

21 Okay. Thank you for those people attending 22 from Region 7 and Region 9. We appreciate it.

23 We're going to take a break right now, ten 24 minutes. We'll come back at five till 11:00 and 25 continue with Region 4.

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MR. SILVA: We have got at least an hour and a half for Region 4. For those of you from Region 8, it might be more like two hours unless we take a ten-minute break for lunch and then come back.

Okay. Why don't we go with Gerry Green. MR. GREEN: Thank you very much. My name is Gerry Green. I'm a senior civil engineer for the City of Downey. And I would like to speak to some of the changes that are going on.

In particular Downey will be impacted by changes in regards to the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River and metal concentrations, in particular aluminum, cadmium, copper and zinc.

We think it is all appropriate that we continue to move forward with the 303(d) process but we are concerned at this particular application we have not done a sufficient job on both validating the data and making sure that the uses, beneficial uses, that we are trying to return to the watershed are appropriate in our area.

22 In particular, we think that the reach 23 designations are perhaps far too wide in our area, 24 that -- we are concerned with San Gabriel River. We're 25 essentially talking about a dry stream channel for at

the next listing cycle we will expect that these come 2 off, because the violations are due to things that 3 happen during our El Nino years of 97 and '98. 4

And if you were to take a look at the fact sheet you would clearly see that the violation points are all in that period. Since then it's all been above the violations. I don't believe the 303(d) process is to be cycling things on and off the list based on unusual act of God events.

I started to allude to use attainability analysis. Again we think that applying a warm water beneficial use to an area where there is no water eleven months out of the year is an inappropriate application. Perhaps there are parts of the reach where it would be applicable to put this in, but that should be handled at this stage not through some later clarification of the 303(d) listing.

If there's a question, a watch list is an appropriate place to put things. Personally I think that several of these items probably should not be listed at all; several of the others are reasonable to put on a watch list.

We will be submitting further written comments later on that helps to support some of the statements I've made here.

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least eleven months out of the year. 1

The beneficial uses that have been identified include rare, warm and wild, warm water habitat. Eleven months of the year there is no water. As far as the rare, I think it is appropriate to help us to understand what animals, what creatures, we're trying to bring back into this area. That is something that I think could be added as a part of the 303(d) listing process to help us improve what is trying to be brought back.

The science behind the listings, we are nervous in that we see data in the fact sheets that are variable. As an example, for copper in San Gabriel River, in one section it's indicated 62 percent of the observations are in violation and in another case it indicates 23, and we understand the county is doing a reanalysis and it comes down to 11 percent.

It is important that this work be done carefully and correctly. Having things come on the list to be brought back off because of bad science does not help us. It is a diversion of our efforts instead of helping us to focus our efforts on getting the real problems off the list.

23 On- and off-site work. I thought it was very 24 surprising that in the fact sheets to go with several of 25 these compounds the board specifically indicates during

One other concern I had was the criteria continuous concentration use. I am still trying to find out completely where its application comes from, but I understand that it was originally intended to mostly be directed at POTW's and industrial waste dischargers.

And if you look at the table it very clearly runs from 25 up to 400 on the table. The person who produced that table clearly did not intend it to be extrapolated from 25 down to zero. From 25 to 400, 25-unit increments, obviously one extra increment downward could easily have got him to the end of the table. He chose not to. But instead we now see it being used to be extrapolate right down to values of hardness of 1 in developing data, giving us criteria that are below the detection limit for copper.

This does not help us. This is science that should be improved to give us the things we need to decide whether a problem should go on the 303(d) list and then how it should be eventually brought off and resolved.

Thank you very much. I look forward to your findings and hopefully we'll all be well satisfied with them.

24 MR. SILVA: Jacqueline Lambriches? 25 MS. LAMBERTH: My daughter's just vocalized our

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organization's opposition. My name is Jacqueline Lambriches and I am in the community based organization 3 called Friends of the San Gabriel River and our address

is 3725 -- P.O. Box 3725 -- South El Monte 91733. 4 5

And I actually live in the San Gabriel River watershed and we are opposing the moving of the San Gabriel River estuary reach from the impairment listing to the watch list.

And strongly supporting this is the city of 10 Seal Beach, their chamber of commerce as well their city council members and they have monthly beach cleanups and 11 all sorts of the documentation to support this and they 12 13 did provide some of it initially when the listing 14 documentation was requested.

15 MR. SILVA: You have until June 15 if you want 16 to submit more comments.

17 MS. LAMBERTH: Some more comments or perhaps 18 city council resolution updates and things like that. 19 Thank you.

20 MR. SILVA: John Oropeza.

21 MR. ORPEZA: Good morning. My name is John 22 Oropeza, Public Works Director for the City of Bell

23 Gardens. Address, 8327 South Garfield Avenue, Bell

24 Gardens 90201. 25

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Bell Gardens is a 2.3 square mile city with a

water being listed as impaired, especially for potential 2 uses that do not exist today and are not probable for 3 the future.

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We want to support your staff's proposal for a watch list. In reviewing the current 1998 303(d) list it appears that we discharged into the Reach 2 of the Los Angeles River and Reach 1 of the Rio Hondo River. In addition to trash, both of these reaches are listed for a number of specific pollutants and general conditions.

We would like to see a detailed review of all these listings so that we could better understand what existing uses of the channels are actually impaired and what data is supporting the listings.

15 A complete review of beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and impairment could take time. 16 However, you could act soon to improve the situation by 17 18 moving all vague listings to the watch list for better 19 definition. For our area, this would include listings 20 for high coliform counts, nutrients, algae and scum, 21 foam. I would also suggest trash if the regional board 22 had not already adopted a TMDL for trash. 23

This would be a win-win for both the environment and the taxpayers, as it would provide for cleanup of the identified pollutants while saving the

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population of approximately 49,000. We are tucked in between the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo River just south of the City of Commerce.

3 Bell Gardens is a mixed -- built-out mixed-use 4 5 community. Approximately 75 percent of the city is 6 residential with the remainder being a mix of commercial 7 and industrial uses. Our storm drains discharge into 8 the fenced concrete-lined flood control channels also 9 known as the L.A. River and the Rio Hondo, which also 10 drains into the Los Angeles River further south. Our city has an aggressive litter abatement program. We 11 12 sweep our major arterials three times a week and all the 13 remaining streets weekly. We have dedicated maintenance crews that follow behind the trash trucks to pick up

littler in streets and alleys within two days after 15 16 trash pick-up. So we're very aggressive in trying to 17 keep the streets clean and keeping storm drain washout 18 to a minimum.

Bell Gardens wants to do our fair share to help 20 clean up our waterways and prevent pollution. However, we are concerned about spending our money wisely. In the past we have not been too concerned nor paid very much attention to 303(d) list because it didn't seem to impact us directly. After adoption of the TMDL's we are

starting to understand the potential consequences of

taxpayers the expense of chasing down contaminants which may or may not even exist in these subject waters or may

3 not be present in levels consistent or sufficient enough

4 to pose a threat to public health. 5

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

6 MR. SILVA: Ken Farfsing?

7 MR. FARFSING: Good morning, Member Silva. My 8 name's Ken Farfsing, City Manager for the City of Signal 9 Hill. Address is 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill 90806.

I also represent the Coalition for Practical Regulation, a group of 44 Los Angeles County cities devoted to working with the state on regional solutions to storm water issues.

I want to thank the state board and the staff for reviewing and analyzing the recommendations submitted by the Region 4 board and their staff. The state board appears to have made a good start at scrutinizing the technical and scientific support that the regional board relied upon for their listings and delistings.

The National Research Council in their report to Congress entitled "Assessing the TMDL Approach to Water Quality Management" noted that "many waters on state 303(d) lists were placed there without the benefit of adequate water quality standards, data, or waterbody

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assessment" and that there is "considerable uncertainty about whether many of the waters placed on the 1998 list are truly impaired" due to "legal, time and resource pressures placed upon the states and EPA" to complete the listings.

The NRC stressed the importance of states developing "appropriate use designations for waterbodies in advance of assessment and refining these use designations prior to TMDL development." This process is not being followed in California. Many basin plans have not been critically reassessed in a number of years. The last comprehensive revision to the Los Angeles basin plan was in 1994. Our outdated basin plan has resulted in designating flood control channels for fishing and swimming.

In light of the NCR recommendations the state board should consider mandating comprehensive reviews of all basin plans as a means of insuring the integrity of the 303(d) lists. Critical to the current revisions is preparation of the new water quality control policy by the state board. California needs to formally adopt a listing policy that'll promote fairness and consistency.

This policy should establish the requirements for review of the entire listing process to assure that listings are based on sound science. The policy should

must first tell you that I want to thank the state board for devoting more resources to looking at the problems of this 2002 list. I want to thank the board for starting the process of developing technically sound and scientifically valid list of impaired waterbodies. The proposed watch list is a good start. Potential water quality problems for which there is a lack of clear definition or data to actually determine an impairment should be placed on the pending or watch list.

I'm not sure of the data supporting the listing, but we want to thank you for the use of dissolved cadmium, copper and zinc for Reach 1 of the Los Angeles River instead of total metals.

My specific concern is the Los Angeles River Estuary. The estuary has several listings related to historic uses of pesticides and lubricants. Among these are lead, chlordane and DDT. These are listed because of their presence in the sediments. Instead of being listed we request that they be placed on a watch list similar to PCB's.

We believe it will be impossible to establish valid TMDL's for legacy pollutants. Pollutants that were discharged years ago and have since been banned from use cannot be controlled by regulating current storm water discharges. Perhaps the USEPA should be

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indicate state board priorities such that limited public resources can be devoted to working on the first priorities operates first.

The cities desire a 303(d) listing process and 303(d)lists that assure they are not wasting public resources, that there is solid evidence to demonstrate to our residents and businesses that new storm water taxes and fees for water quality improvements are justified and the cleanup measures are effective. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Larry Forester?

MR. FORESTER: Good morning, Board Members. Larry Forester, City Council, City of Signal Hill, 2175 Cherry Avenue, 90806.

As a major portion of our city drains through Long Beach and into the Los Angeles River, we have worked well with the county working on some areas of major concern, one of those being working with our Hamilton Bowl, which is a regional catch for the storm water prior to going into the river.

Recently an experimental design was placed in that system and it's been proving to catch reasonably well the trash for the trash TMDL.

But now in this time frame I have some specific concerns with the proposed list. But as an engineer, I

asked to deal with legacy listings through a separate
 program.

I thank you for your time and the permission to be listened to.

MR. SILVA: Thank you very much.

6 Blane Frandsen?

MR. FRANDSEN: Thank you. My name's Blane Frandsen. I'm the Director of Public Works for the City of Lawndale. Our city hall is located at 14717 Burin Avenue in Lawndale, California. It's my privilege to speak for the City of Lawndale today as a Public Works Director.

I would note the City of Lawndale is a small city of approximately two square miles; however, we are densely populated with about 32,000 citizens. Our storm water drains primarily to the Dominguez Channel above the -- above Vermont Avenue.

The people of Lawndale and the local government of Lawndale share the regional board's desire to improve the water quality of our city and of our area and particularly of the Dominguez Channel watershed. We recognize the importance of controlling pollution from storm water coming from our city and in working with goals and policies and efforts within the city to accomplish that.

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First we would like to thank the regional board staff for recommending putting the Dominguez Channel Estuary on the watch list for chlordane, copper, PCB's and other unknown pollutants.

We believe by putting these on the watch list this will allow more data to be collected and to see what are actually causing the problems within this watershed area.

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We know chlordane and PCB's are historical pollutants, pollutants that are no longer in common use. Putting them on the watch list we believe will allow time to see if their concentrations will diminish over time because of the discontinued use of these substances.

If not, the state and regional board may have to come up with other alternatives or other ways to handle these historical pollutants. It would be very difficult to accomplish anything by setting loads or waste loads if these things are not being currently used and they are coming from residues in the sands and in the sediments that are already within the basin.

22 Also we have concern with the designation of a 23 high coliform count. We note this as a high priority in the current TMDL listings for the Dominguez Channel, 24 25 both for the estuary area and also for the area north of

limited. We believe that they must be focused on

obtaining the highest and best results from the limited

funds that we have. We believe in a scientific based

4 consideration for setting the list, and the 303 listing

5 for the Dominguez Channel area is very important and we

support that. Thank you. 6 7

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MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Mark Pumford?

9 MR. PUMFORD: Good morning. Mark Pumford, City 10 of Oxnard, 6001 South Perkins Road, Oxnard, California 11 93033.

12 We have a simple request today. We are seeking 13 the delisting of Mandalay Beach under 303(d) for beach 14 closure. We have provided written comments supporting the fact that there have been no beach closures since 15 1996, well beyond the listing trigger of a closure 17 within three-years span.

18 Also we and the county have provided 19 information showing that the beach is not triggered for AB 411 exceedances. All is not rosy in Ventura Coastal 20

region of California, and we would like to focus our

22 resources on the true problem areas and Mandalay Beach 23 is not one of them.

24 Thank you for consideration of this request and 25 the opportunity to comment today.

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Vermont Avenue where our city is located. We believe that this is inappropriate.

The Dominguez Channel is not a swimming hole, is not a recreational facility. It is a flood control channel. There are no legal recreational uses along the channel itself. So it is unclear as to what, if any, is being impaired by coliform counts within that area.

In the 1998 303 list, high coliform count along the Dominguez Channel was designated as very low priority for TMDL consideration. If it has that high priority listing this year we don't understand why that is being considered. We believe that it should at most be considered a low priority, continuing as it had been considered historically.

Furthermore we could question what a high coliform count measures. It is not clearly defined what the actual pollutant is. And we believe that the 303(d) list should be more focused with regard to human pathogens using some other measure than the high coliform count measure.

22 reasonable science-based controls to mitigate pollution from storm water. I note that our funding with regards 23 to a small city of our base for all infrastructure 24

As I said, the City of Lawndale supports

25 measures and for use with regard to this program are MR. SILVA: Thank you.

2 Dr. Randall Orton?

3 MR. ORTON: Good morning, Mr. Silva. My name 4 is Dr. Randall Orton. I'm representing the Las Virgenes 5

Municipal Water District at 4232 Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas.

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MR. WILSON: Can we have your name again, please?

9 MR. ORTON: Randall Orton.

10 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ORTON: The Las Virgenes Municipal Water 11

12 District is a combined utility providing drinking water 13 and waste water services and composting services to

approximately 80,000 residents in the western Los

15 Angeles County, primarily the cities of Westlake,

16 Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Agoura Hills. We've also 17 submitted our technical comments in writing. I think

18 I'll focus today on some policy issues.

I'd like to begin by stating overall the city is very pleased on the state's efforts with this round. The difference between this round and previous rounds

22 are quite striking.

23 For example, it has much greater data 24 traceability. There's been comments about people who

25 have seen data and they say this doesn't agree with us:

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we don't agree with this data. Their ability to do that rests on their ability to see the data the list is based on. And I'd like to commend Mr. Wilson and his staff for taking extra pains to make sure the data is traceable.

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We support watch lists. You've heard this a lot today, so I am going to skip over a bunch of comments and get to one recommendation that we have with watch lists. They seem to solve a lot of problems, but there is a valid criticism that a watch list is a recipe for inaction.

Too many things get put on watch list and not come off. If that proves to be a stumbling block for the state we would recommend you incorporate a sunset clause into a watch list so if something stays on the watch list for more than one or two listing cycles it automatically advances to the full list. We think this gives ample incentive to people who want to either firm up a listing or disprove it to do the necessary research to support their case.

21 In closing I'd like to mention that: Where do 22 you go from here? We think this current round again is 23 a really positive step in the right direction. You're still going to be troubled by things no matter how well 25 you do the 303(d)watch list.

Legal Defense Foundation, the Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality, and the Building Industry

Association of Southern California. 4 And I wanted to make a comment that my comments

5 here are applicable to all of the regions, so I don't

want to have to repeat them for all the other regions. 7 I'd like to begin by discussing the National

8 Research Council's examination of the TMDL program.

9 Especially since the new 303(d) list will drive TMDL's 10 for each of our communities we feel it is important for

11 the state board to consider its findings.

12 In October 2000 Congress suspended 13 implementation by the EPA of the federal rules for the 14 TMDL program. Congress requested that the National

15 Research Council examine the scientific basis of the

16 TMDL program. The process carried out over four months

17 beginning in January 2000. Although this was a national 18 process, many of the important lessons from this process

19 are applicable to California's TMDL process.

20 Changes recommended by the NRC for the TMDL 21 process include, and I quote, "EPA should approve the

22 use of both a preliminary list and an action list

23 instead of one 303(d) list."

24 Now, we definitely commend the state water 25 board and regional boards for adopting NRC's recommended

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Dr. Green made reference to it earlier that some beneficial uses are not appropriate. And the one I'd like to focus on in closing has to do with effluent dependent waterbodies.

Wildlife has a big problem in Southern California. If they don't have water they don't survive. If beneficial uses are designated for these waters that demand water quality that's impossible to provide, then dischargers are left with only a couple choices. They can take the water away and do something else with it or they can take it to the ocean. In either event the waterbody that the water was taken out of, the animals in there will suffer.

The state for some time has grappled with the effluent dependent waterbody issue. A state task force almost six years ago generated all kinds of recommendations. We think if that were solved that would further smooth the way to the next iteration of the 303(d) list. Thank you for your time.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Tim Piasky?

22 MR. PIASKY: Good morning, Board Member Silva. 23 My name's Tim Piasky. Address, 1330 South Valley Vista

Boulevard, Diamond Bar. 24 25

I'm here representing the Building Industry

approach for a watch list. We feel it is appropriate to demote some of the listings from the '98 303(d) list to 3 watch status, particularly in the cases where use 4 attainability analyses would be appropriate. 5

The second recommendation by the NRC was that the state should develop appropriate use designations for waterbodies in advance of assessment for placement on the 303(d) list and refine these use designations prior to TMDL development.

Third recommendation was to insure that designated uses are appropriate, use attainability analysis should be considered for all waterbodies before a TMDL is developed.

Now, presumably, the recommendation for these 15 UAA's would apply months strongly to designated 16 beneficial uses that are controversial, including those 17 for which questions have been raised as part of the 18 basin plan and triennial review process. In other areas of the country these UAA's are required prior to 20 beneficial use designations, for example, in the state 21 of Ohio.

The last item I wanted to bring out from the NRC recommendations is that evaluated data and evidence of violation of narrative standards should not be exclusively used for placement of a waterbody on the

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action list. Key examples of this would be listings for trash, sediments, toxicity, et cetera.

It would be more appropriate to use the watch list until a translator to a numeric standard could be developed for relative listing. We urge the state board to put special effort towards translating narrative into numeric criteria.

We also request that the state board have the regional boards define water quality criteria in terms of frequency, magnitude and duration so that the 303(d) list would be formulated with consideration of these factors and subsequent TMDL's based upon water quality objectives would be more sensible and reasonably enforceable. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

16 Susan Paulsen?

MS. PAULSEN: Thank you for the opportunity to be here. My name's Susan Paulsen. I work for Flow Science, 723 East Green Street, Pasadena, California.

Tiering off of what some of my colleagues have already stated, we have done some additional work to review the basin plan for the L.A. region to assess whether the TMDL process as applied in this region complies with the recommendations made by the NRC committee and with applicable laws and regulations.

listing process: First, we would recommend that use attainability analyses or a suitable equivalent should be performed for the additional uses, for certain beneficial uses that are contained within the basin plans. That would include especially those for which there is not enough scientific or technical data to justify the listings, and for those waterbodies we would recommend the use of watch list status as opposed to placement on a final 303(d) list until the UAA's or a

suitable equivalent would be performed.

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These designations would include municipal designations and land designations including those made pursuant to the state's sources of drinking water policy. As you heard from others, Rec 1 designations, particularly for cases such as lined flood control channels where access is limited or even illegal, Rec 2 designations where water contact and ingestion is highly unlikely -- and here we urge state and regional boards to consider either a risk analysis or to consider the likely level of recreational use prior to applying water quality objectives.

Another category would be habitat designations, particularly where habitat is minimal or seasonal, or where designations may conflict with other undesignated uses, such as flood control.

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As you know, basin plans are established under state law under Porter Cologne, the delegated authority to establish beneficial use designations and water quality objectives pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

The L.A. region's beneficial uses and water quality objectives in many cases were formulated with minimal or no consideration of Porter Cologne Section 13241 factors.

And in particular we draw your attention to the following: The probable as opposed to potential future beneficial uses of water to water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area, economic impacts, the need for developing housing, and the need to develop and use recycled water.

Even though consideration of these and other factors are mandated by state and not federal law, they are important because the beneficial uses and water quality objectives that are contained in the basin plans form the basis for 303(d) listings and for subsequent TMDL processing.

In taking into account the NRC recommendations and our review of basin plans we would like to make the following specific recommendations for this 303(d) Finally we request clarification of what a potential beneficial use designation really means.

The second recommendation that we would make would be that we would recommend watch list status for listings that are based upon water quality objectives that are applied under conditions that they were never intended to cover.

For example, when the basin plan was originally formulated it apparently was not clear that bacterial objective were intended to apply to storm waters particularly under high flow conditions when few would argue to those waters are truly swimmable.

We note in particular that the episodic nature of storm water flows should be considered in setting beneficial use objectives or beneficial use designations and in applying water quality objectives.

And, finally, because the interpretation of narrative standards is somewhat subjective and open to interpretation, we would recommend watch list status for 303(d) listings that are based solely upon far different standards and we echo the comments that you've heard before that the state board and the regional boards work to develop translators so that narrative standards can be translated into numeric criteria prior to 303(d) listings for implementing and carrying out the TMDL

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process.

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In conclusion we would urge the state board to request that regional boards review each region's basin plans with particular focus on designated beneficial uses and water quality objectives prior to adding waterbodies to a final 303(d) list.

It's clear from our review of the NRC's recommendations and of the Los Angeles basin plan administrative record that the 303(d) process as currently formulated contains flaws, in large part because of needed improvements to beneficial use designations and water quality objectives.

Unless these flaws are remedied we fear that the TMDL process will lead to 303(d) listings that are unreasonable and to TMDL's difficult to meet, difficult to enforce and that really will have little effect on improving water quality in California. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Clayton Yoshida?

MR. YOSHIDA: Hello. My name's Clayton Yoshida. I'm employed with the City of Los Angeles. My address is 12000 Vista Del Mar in Playa Del Rey.

City of Los Angeles thanks the state board and also the regional board for developing and reviewing the 303(d) lists.

The city has submitted already written comments

Also the city's also concerned with funding sources for waterbodies that are placed on the watch 2 list, because indeed waterbodies should not be placed on 4 the watch list and forgotten. Therefore the state 5 should take -- should review their funding sources and 6 provide some information in their procedures to address 7 those concerns.

The city also supports watch listings where there is alternative enforcement procedure, such as the Bay Protection Toxic Cleanup Program and also encourages the state board to review other waterbodies that are covered under alternative enforcement programs such as other sections of the L.A. Harbor and also the Los Angeles River where there are other enforcement programs

such as our MS 4 permit for storm water. Also the city echoes comments on translator for narrative objectives. We believe that those waterbodies should be placed on the watch list as well. And in our written comments we have some more detailed information about specific waterbodies. And a couple that we haven't put in there that we noticed later on was Ballona Creek and also Machado Lake. There is a impairment for a group of pollutants called chem A, and

24 basically that's a group of pollutants, not actually a

25 pollutant. So we ask that the state board work with the

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and I'd like to go over some of the points that are in those comments. Also the state -- the city supports the 303(d) list in general with the recommended changes of the state board.

Methodology and revision of the entire list is one thing that the city supports, because we know that the state is developing a procedure for listing on the 303(d) list, and we thank Mr. Craig J. Wilson for coming down to our region to meet with us and to hear our concerns and we know he's developing a procedure for listing which will be distributed for review probably next year.

And we would like to request that the state board put language in the staff report to the EPA that the 303(d) list will be reviewed in its entirety as a result of the methodology that's developed.

Also there's been a lot of support for watch lists. The city also echoes those support for the watch list. However, there also needs to be a procedure in order to address the concerns of some stakeholders that watch lists may cause a delay in the cleanup of our waters. There should therefore be a procedure for listing on the watch list and also we have noted the concern about time, the time limit on the watch list

that some waterbodies will be placed.

regional board to separate out those pollutants and determine which of those pesticides are in fact causing impairments.

And also finally we notice that one water body that has impairment is called Santa Monica Bay near shore/offshore and we consider that to be a rather large waterbody and it's quite unmangeable. And if this waterbody is kept on the list it would seem that it would remain on the list for quite a long time. So we ask that this waterbody be broken down into more manageable segments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Adam Ariki?

15 MR. ARIKI: For the record, my name's Adam 16 Ariki, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Address is 900 South Fremont in Alhambra 91803.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the county's view on the proposed 303(d) list. Our written comment would be submitted by deadline June 15.

The common theme to our comments follow the same logic that you've heard, comprised of three factors -- good science, practicality and logic. With that in mind I'm going to go really quickly over my presentation. I will not labor over those points that

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have been brought up. I had a power point presentation. We actually have pictures, but unfortunately because of the unavailability of that I'm going to have to refer you to the handouts I submitted earlier in the beginning of the presentations.

First concern that we have is if -- people have brought this issue up that is of really great concern to the L.A. County Department of Public Works and particular Flood Control District, and that is the concrete-lined flood control channels.

The designation of these channels for Rec 1 beneficial uses is erroneous. As you can see from the presentation that I've submitted, there are pictures that these reaches are not accessible to public, they are gated, they are fenced, and people are not going to swim in them.

An example of that, the Dry Canyon Creek of Los Angeles river. It's placed on the proposed list for total coliform for intermittent Rec 1 beneficial use. You will see from the picture clearly that there are signs of no trespassing, it's illegal, it's prohibited by the law. There is a fine of \$500 and imprisonment of six months if you go in there. Designations like that do not make sense.

I'm going to skip over all these pictures.

laboratory results with non-detectable levels.

An example of that, take selenium, for example, the total seleniums. For non-detect samples from Malibu it was assigned 5 parts per billion or 5 micrograms per liter. Selenium from Ballona Creek were assigned 2.5 micrograms per liter and from Dry Canyon they were assigned, the same selenium, zero micrograms per liter. And all these values were used to determine impairments in these waterbodies.

So there is inconsistency there. Another thing for the Santa Clara River Reach 3 it was identified to be impaired for nitrate. The process of the determination ignored 40 samples -- 40 samples that shows non-detect. Now, had these 40 samples were considered, only 7 percent of the samples would have been in exceedance of the water quality objective as opposed to 17 percent. We request a rationalization for that.

Impairment due to natural sources. An example of that there is a McGrath Lake in Ventura County. It's believed that it could be impaired due to high bacterial fecal coliform from fresh water birds and aquatic life. Now, we request that impairment due to natural resources or natural-occurring constituents be downrated and place those on the watch list until further additional data is

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They are there for you to look. They don't need any explanation. They are self-explanatory.

The next two issues that we're concerned with that have been brought up and briefly touched on what our main concerns are, they have to do with the water quality data assessment. The first issue, there was no consideration given to seasonal variation in water quality throughout the water quality assessment process.

An example of that there are five waterbodies -- Coyote Creek, Malibu Creek, San Gabriel River, Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek -- they are all identified to be impaired for total metals and dissolved metals and yet this is all based on sample collected only during wet weather. That's crucial. We believe that there should be samples collected during the dry weather period of year.

We want to direct the state board attention to the Florida cases where they actually require at least one sample from the three of the four seasons of each year for water quality assessment. That is evident that such water quality is necessary for impairment determination.

23 The second issue with water quality data 24 assessment we'd like to bring up is the lack of 25 consistency or consistent approach in evaluating the 1 collected to verify the determination of their2 impairment.

Next issue is the alternative enforcement program. It was brought up by the City of Los Angeles we support that the fact that it is being used to place impairments on the watch list but we are not clear on -- there is no criteria to tell us which kind of alternative enforcement program can be used for that purpose.

So we'd like to have, one, a list of all these alternative programs; two, the criteria that we can use to use these alternatives programs, enforceable alternative programs, so that we can place constituents on a watch list instead of the 303(d) list.

In conclusion the 303(d) list is used to develop the TMDL's. If it's done right we will minimize our differences during future TMDL process. If it's done wrong and ends up contentious, we'll waste precious resources and future TMDL's, as has been demonstrated in three or four TMDL's that have been promulgated so far. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

23 Sharon Green?

MS. GREEN: Good morning, Board Member Silva. I'm Sharon Green. My address is P.O. Box 4998,

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Whittier, California 90607. I'm here today with Heather 2 Lamberson of our staff. We're here on behalf of the 3 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

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By way of background, the sanitation districts are a consortium of independent special districts serving the waste water and solid waste management needs of over 5 million people and 33,000 industries within Los Angeles County. We current serve 78 cities and unincorporated areas within the County.

We own and operate 11 waste water treatment plants in Los Angeles County. Eight of these discharge to surface waters, including the Santa Clara River, the Rio Hondo, the lower San Gabriel River watershed and the ocean off the Palos Verdes peninsula. So we have a direct interest in a number of listings and items that are on the 303(d) list.

17 I wanted to start by saving we really 18 appreciate the fact that you're having a hearing down 19 here in Southern California. Obviously it makes it a 20 little more convenient for all of us. We appreciate the 21 extra effort the state board has gone to do that. Also 22 appreciate the fact that both regional board staff as 23 well as state board staff have been willing to meet with interested parties such as ourselves to discuss the list 25 that was under development.

We think that some things -- for instance, 2 algae, exotic species and other types of things that may have been caused by hydrologic modifications -- are not 4 amenable to a TMDL. 5

And finally we believe it's important to recognize and leverage the efforts going on under other programs under this concept that has been put forward of using alternative enforceable program and recognizing that those efforts are underway to achieve water quality standards and may be a very viable alternative to a TMDL.

We strongly support the adoption of the watch list as has been stated by many other folks. We agree it should not just be a list of waters for which nothing is done. Clearly waters placed on the watch list because there is insufficient information should receive high priority for monitoring and further study before the next update of the 303(d) list.

There are several examples of things that we propose should be moved to the watch list or placed on the watch list if they're proposed new listing. Some of the specific ones includes the algae, toxicity and fish histology listings for the lower San Gabriel River watershed. Our specific comments on those will be included in our full comment package.

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We believe a collaborative process could really enhance the development of the list. We believe that stakeholders often have a lot of knowledge and information about particular waterbodies.

We have provided a handout to the staff summarizing some of our major comments which I'm going to go over and Heather Lamberson will go over some of them for inclusion in the administrative record.

We will be submitting a complete comment package by the June 15th deadline and, by the way, we do appreciate that extension which was provided by the board to allow additional information and data to be considered in this listing process.

I guess my first overall major comment is that we agreed with the state board's depiction of the list as a list of water quality limited segments for which total maximum daily loads or TMDL's are required, and this is a little bit more limited definition than some people use.

20 I think some people view it as a solution for 21 every problem facing our waterbodies and I think the 22 more expansive view is really beyond the capability of 23 TMDL program and assumes that kind of the one size fits all approach of a TMDL can solve every problem, and in 25 fact that is not the case in our opinion.

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We also support a new aspect of -- I won't say exactly of the list but the new aspect of this whole process, which is the adoption of a TMDL completed list. I think that's a great way to show progress that the state is making and to recognize the efforts that are underway and it's also a good way to track those efforts. We also would like to state that we support some of the proposed delistings for certain items. Let's see. See if I can cut it down.

And lastly and actually most importantly I think we would like to ask that the state board agree to review certain listings for some waters that are on currently on the 1998 303(d) list. We don't agree that it should just all be carried forward with no review. We think that that'll create some problems for the state board that will create a lot of inconsistencies with some of the decisions being made in this listing process.

There are a number of things for which we think there are valid reasons to either place on the watch list or even possibly delist, and my colleague is going to speak about a couple of those where we see water quality standards being attained already and we think there is no need for a TMDL. And another example is where there is an alternative enforceable program in

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place. Thank you very much.

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MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Heather Lamberson?

MS. LAMBERSON: My name's Heather Lamberson. I'm with the L.A. County Sanitation Districts, P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, California. I'm just here to follow up on Sharon's comments with comments on specific listings.

And the first two examples I'm going to talk about are waterbodies where the current data show there is attainment of the water quality standard, so actually I'm up here to give you good news. These are waterbodies that are on the 303(d) list that are not impaired.

Both of these examples are from the Santa Clara River, Reach 8, and the first listing that I will talk about is nitrate with nitrite. We request that this listing be removed from the 303(d) list as impaired.

The nitrate plus nitrite objective for Reach 8 is 10 milligrams per liter of nitrogen according to the basin plan. And the basis of this listing is unclear. After review of the administrative record we were not

22 able to find any data supporting this initial listing. 23 But regardless of this, based on a review of 24 the data collected over the past three years this 25 waterbody is in attainment with its nitrate plus nitrite

So again, this is an example of a reach that's on the 303(d) list; yet the water quality standards are being attained. Therefore we think this listing should be removed from the 303(d) list because current data shows that the waterbody's not impaired.

The next issue that I'd like to talk about is that we believe that ammonia listings for the San Gabriel River watershed and Santa Clara River watershed should be moved to the watch list. These are ammonia listings and this is another situation where we have good news. In this case we have an alternative enforceable program that'll cause the waterbodies to be in attainment with the applicable ammonia objectives.

Because there's an alternative enforceable program already in place to address these ammonia impairments and the water objectives will be attained in the near future in a process separate from the 303(d) process, a TMDL is not required for those reaches.

And again we think that pursuit of the TMDL to address these listings will only result in a waste of resources for a problem that has already been addressed.

In June 1995, the district received NPDES permits that have a compliance schedule related to the ammonia objectives. In accordance with the permits we've been pursuing the addition of nitrification and

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objective. And we submitted some figures along with our written comment summary, and the receiving water data

3 from 1999 to 2001 shows that zero samples out of 45 4 samples exceed the basin plan objective. So clearly the

waterbody is attaining standard, and therefore we

believe that it should be delisted. 6

This is particularly important because currently there is a nutrient TMDL for the Santa Clara River that's underway and it's imperative that the state board remove this listing so the TMDL can be focused just on the actual impairments that exist. Therefore we won't waste valuable resources on a problem that's just not there.

To follow up on that, Santa Clara River Reach 8 was also listed in 1998 as impaired to low dissolved oxygen and the basin plan objective for dissolved oxygen requires a median annual concentration of 7 milligrams per liter with no single determination less than 5 milligrams per liter.

And again, a summary of the current data for Reach 8 shows that only 1 out of 290 samples are below the 5 milligram per liter DO criteria. In addition, the annual average DO, the second part of the objective, for 1999 through 2001 was also about 70 milligrams per liter.

Page 113 denitrification facilities at the district's WRP's and

the construction of these facilities will result in 3 compliance with the applicable ammonia objectives.

4 And we have pilot testing that shows that we 5 will be able to meet the criteria that's applicable at the June 2003 compliance date. 6

Again I just wanted to reinforce that because there's an alternative enforceable program already in place -- it's required by our permits -- and we have data that shows that we will meet the ammonia water quality objective, that pursuing a TMDL for those listings is really not going to get us anywhere. There is already a fix in place that'll address this water quality concern. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

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Anjali Jaiswal? MS. JAISWAL: Good afternoon, Board Members, Board Members of the State Board. I am Anjali Jaiswal, staff attorney at NRDC. On behalf of our NRDC and our 400,000 members nationwide and 80,000 members in California, we would like to thank the state board for the opportunity to comment today.

23 We have general comments on the proposed 303(d) 24 list as well as some specific comments relating to 25 Region 4.

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We support the state board's actions to create a defensible 303(d) list. We also support the addition of 195 new water segments. However, we are concerned about maintaining one 303(d) list. Specifically we are concerned about the watch list and the TMDL completed list.

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We are also concerned about the transparency of decisions to delist water segments. We support one 303(d) list. We also request elimination of the watch list and the TMDL completed list.

The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and implementing regulations contemplate one list. The Clean Water Act and implementing regulations focus on attaining water quality standards, not creating separate lists for any listing. They do not require a watch list. They do not require a TMDL completed list.

The watch list and the TMDL completed list function to delist waters from the 303(d) list, because as clearly set forth in the staff report the waters on the watch list and the TMDL list completed list are not part of the 303(d) list.

The 177 waters on the watch list result in a total delisting of 247 water segments. This does not include the waters that are proposed for the TMDL completed list.

regulatory programs are not stringent enough to 2 implement any water quality standard. 3

That Section 303(d) itself already considers existing programs and the situation where TMDL's are mandatory. Now going to the implementing regulations.

40 CFR 130.7 (b)(1) lists the reasons for not including waters on the 303(d) list. It says waters don't have to be listed if they are meeting water quality standards. It also discusses not listing waters where there are technical controls that show that the waterbody will attain water quality standards within the next listing cycle.

If the state board is proposing that these regulatory programs function as these kinds of controls considered in 40 CFR 130.7 then the state board needs to provide insurance, some sort of justification that compliance will be met. They can't just delist these waters by placing them on a watch list.

We are also concerned about several segments listed for toxicity that are on the watch list instead of on the 303(d) list that were discussed for Region 9 and also in Region 2. Because of the bio-accumulative nature of toxicity these water segments remain impaired and must be on the 303(d) list. If data are available that water quality is impaired, then the water should be

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By having 247 delistings this outweighs the 195 additions. These actions on a whole weaken efforts to attain water quality standards in California. We request at a minimum that the watch list and the TMDL completed list be considered part of the 303(d) list.

Specifically regarding the watch list. The watch list functions as an additional hurdle for waters to get on to the 303(d) list. If the evidence is there, it must be listed. We are also concerned specifically in Region 4 where the regional board staff scientists. regulators, technicians recommended placing waters on the 303(d) list; however the state board placed these waters on the watch list. There is no basis for placing these waters on the watch list.

In fact, in Region 4 there were 23 waters that the regional board proposed to place on the 303(d) list but were placed on the watch list. At the minimum the state board should articulate a sound reason for not placing these waters on the 303(d) list.

More importantly and critically today we're concerned about placing waters on the watch list based on existing regulatory programs. There have been several misstatements about the law today. Section 303(d) clearly states and directly states to identify

waters for which effluent limitations through other

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on the 303(d) list. It is also unclear what 2 insufficient data means as a basis for delisting. 3

Going to the TMDL completed list. The TMDL completed list runs contrary to Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act focuses on meeting attainment standards. If it is not meeting attainment standards regardless of whether there is a TMDL completed for the waterbody it should remain on the 303 delist. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) doesn't focus on delisting based on completed TMDL's. Water should stay on the 303(d) list because the water quality assessment is an empirical assessment, not a legal assessment saying that TMDL's are completed. It's improper to delist without showing that the waterbody's beneficial uses are satisfied.

As we have seen from the TMDL's, the three TMDL's that have been completed in Region 4, they have long implementation plans and they are far from meeting water quality standards. Keeping waters on the 303(d) list is crucial to the success of meeting water quality standards throughout the TMDL process.

Lastly a few words on transparency as far as delisting. The reason for delisting should be transparent. The implementing regulations require good cause for delisting. The state board proposes delisting based on EDL, as well as no guidelines, no defensible

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guidelines, outdated NAS guidelines. We are concerned about these delistings.

In Region 4 alone there are over 40 such segments for delisting based on EDL. At some point EDL's indicate an impairment and cannot be delisted unless some affirmative information is provided to show that the water segment is not impaired.

Also, for the no guidelines, no defensible guidelines, outdated NAS guidelines. There is no good cause given for delisting these waters. If these guidelines are flawed they must state how they are flawed. They must also indicate why these are not defensible.

Lastly we urge the state board to maintain the integrity of the 303(d) list by keeping one 303(d) list and maintaining water segments on the 303(d) list that have not attained water quality standards including elimination of the TMDL completed list and the watch list. Thank you.

20 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

21 Leslie Mintz?

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22 MS. MINTZ: Good afternoon. Heal the Bay

23 strongly supports the state board's use of the 1998

Section 303(d) list. We support the state's additions 24

25 to the listing. We support the listing of Malibu Creek L.A.'s draft comments on the 303(d) list. I have not seen the final comments, but they commented that -- to the effect that a biological criteria like algae or odor or scum should not be on the 303(d) list, waters impaired for these things should be on the watch list.

And we feel that these kinds of narrative criteria in listing waters impaired for these narrative criteria is critical precisely because narrative criteria indicates an impairment for which it has not been determined what is the source of the pollutants involved.

In this regard the Clean Water Act and the EPA 2002 integrated guidance says to put waters on a watch list if there is insufficient or no data about whether there is an impairment to begin with. It does not say to put waters on a watch list because there is a question about what is the source of the impairment.

18 Further, only legal changes to a relevant basin 19 plan can change narrative or biological criteria. 20 There's been a lot of de-designation talk here today. 21 It's not the correct forum. The Clean Water Act is very 22 clear, as is EPA guidance, about the appropriate way to 23 do that.

24 Further, we don't believe that listing or 25 delisting decisions should be based on variables like

for sediments, and Shelley Luce, our staff scientist, will talk about that. We support the state's efforts to allow public participation and we thank the staff for their efforts in this regard.

We do not, however, support the state board's proposed actions to make three separate lists. We do not support a watch list, especially watch listing based upon whether or not pollutants causing an impairment are unknown, whether is there an alternative enforceable program, or whether there is a TMDL in progress. Likewise we don't support a TMDL completed list.

In this regard we recommend to the state board and urge the state board to delete factors number 12 and 13 from the list of factors that staff considers in making elements. Factor number 12 is, quote, source of pollution, and factor number 13 is, quote, availability of alternative enforceable program.

As an overarching premise we believe that the 303(d) list must err on the side of protecting human health and the environment. A watch list is not in accord with this fundamental premise. If less waters are listed, less waters are cleaned up.

23 We're also concerned that even though it may in 24 concept be a good idea it is very subject to abuse. And 25 an example of this occurred recently with the City of

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alternative enforceable programs, because those programs 2 have not worked. That is why we now have TMDL's due to 3 a consent decree. Again, we feel this is against the 4 detailed and already specific requirements in the Clean 5 Water Act for delisting of waters. Such delisting is de

facto delisting in our opinion. We disagree with the separate listing of

impaired waters that have TMDL's but for which water quality standards have not been attained. As Anjali stated previously, water quality

assessment is an empirical assessment, not a legal assessment. And it's imperative, we feel, that you do not delist waters that are, at a minimum, meeting water quality standards, especially when you have implementation periods that span a decade. We feel this is contrary to EPA guidance. We detail this in our comments.

And finally and lastly, the 303(d) list is also a trigger for grant and restoration funds to fix these waters and the very waters we need assistance in cleaning and restoring may not qualify for funding unless they are on the 303(d) list. Thank you.

23 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

24 Shellev Luce?

25 MS. LUCE: I am Shelley Luce, staff scientist

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at Heal the Bay. We would like to thank the staff, the state and regional boards for the way these listings were conducted. Their analyses were correctly and carefully carried out. This is long overdue and we are very pleased that the impairment of beneficial uses due to excess sediment in Malibu Creek has been recognized and we strongly support this new listing.

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8 However, we are disappointed that Calleguas 9 Creek was not placed on the 303(d) list as impaired by 10 excess sediment and as recommended by the L.A. regional board staff. The regional board staff correctly weighed 11 12 the substantial evidence submitted in support of this 13 listing, including obtaining outside professional 14 opinion from the California Department of Fish and Game 15 regarding the very strong macroinvertebrate data from 16 Calleguas Creek. These data and others clearly show 17 extreme sediment impairment in Calleguas Creek, as in 18 Malibu Creek, where habitat destruction due to excess 19 sediment and runoff has been a chronic problem in 20 Calleguas Creek as well for years.

21 Excess sediments cover and fill in the gravel 22 and cobble habitats that are so important to the inspect 23 communities that sustain aquatic food webs.

We see no reason to ignore the regional board's recommendations to place Calleguas Creek on the list as

aquatic life and this should be required in monitoring programs on watersheds that have been listed based on 3 EDL's in the past.

Similarly we are concerned about delisting based on outdated guidelines, no guidelines or no defensible guidelines, because this does not provide affirmative proof that a waterbody that has been considered impaired in the past is not in fact impaired any longer.

I have one more comment. The rivers of L.A. and Ventura counties are not flood control channels or waste conveyance ditches. According to some the solution to water quality problems is to pave rivers, label them flood control channels, and write them off as sewers for toxic waste.

16 And this is unacceptable to the vast majority 17 of our citizens, the ones whom these resources really 18 belong to. It is our responsibility to protect 19 waterways and their beneficial uses and any attempt to 20 weaken Clean Water Act protections through watch list 21 and de facto de-designations of beneficial uses must not 22 be allowed. Thank you.

23 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

24 Louis Celaya?

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25 MR. CELAYA: Good afternoon, Mr. Silva. My

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impaired for excess sediment. This recommendation should be accepted and the impairment should be listed.

We are also concerned about delisting based on the elevated data level. The EDL is a statistical measure which compares contaminant levels in animal tissues from different waterbodies.

The listings were based on EDL's where tissue levels in a given waterbody exceeded levels in at least 85 percent of other waterbodies in the state, and this may indicate a contamination problem.

The question is do those elevated tissue levels have human level impacts and do they impact the aquatic life that are accumulating the contaminants. Since the data are available they should be compared to known standards where possible and delisting should only occur if levels are below those known to affect human health or aquatic life. Otherwise there is no affirmative proof that the waterbody is not impaired.

Delisting based on EDL's result in greater 20 loadings of biocumulative contaminants that are elevated in fish tissues already and fails to protect aquatic 22 life or human health where those fish or shellfish are 23 eaten by people. At the very least these delistings 24 need to be further investigated to determine whether

biocumulative toxins are endangering human health and

Page 125 name's Louis Celaya. I'm a management analyst II for

3 Works with the city's NPDES program.

Our comments will address the TMDL priority settings as it applies to Monrovia Canyon Creek. I'm here today to reiterate our concerns addressed in our May 13 correspondence to Mr. Craig Wilson.

City of Monrovia. I am assisting the Director of Public

Monrovia Canyon Creek may be based solely on USEPA consent decrees. In our May 13 correspondence we inquired as to when sampling had been taken and at what locations to justify the current TMDL priority setting. A review of available data at the regional board level indicates the last sampling done on Monrovia Canyon Creek was back in 1994.

It appears that the TMDL priority being set for

At that time Monrovia Canyon Creek was given a fully supporting status for the element of concern. Review of the sampling stations appears to indicate that samples were taken outside the Monrovia city limits several miles from Monrovia Canyon Creek. The sampling location also appears to serve as a receiving location for several neighboring cities' urban runoff.

Our question today is how can Monrovia Canyon Creek be placed on high TMDL if there is no current information available to justify the priority setting

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and factors such as possible tributaries into Monrovia
 Canyon Creek and other sources had not been considered
 or reviewed?

Finally, if TMDL priority designation is not being based on the consent decree and is being established based on beneficial uses associated with the waterbody as referenced by factors cited in the state report then here also lies a problem as many of the intermittent beneficial uses applied to Monrovia Canyon Creek is not correct.

It is our hope that the state board will consider the TMDL priority setting being applied to Monrovia Canyon Creek and similar waterbodies whose assigned beneficial uses may be misdesignated.

Additionally we hope the state water resources control board will adhere to the recommendations of national reports to proceed cautiously with the development and implementation of the TMDL program in Region 9 until a comprehensive review of the water basin plans has been completed. Thank you for your consideration.

MR. SILVA: Vince Brar?
 MR. BRAR: Good morning. Good afternoon, I
 should say. My name's Vince Brar, with the City of
 Cerritos. I'm the deputy city manager with the city.

insufficient specifically because it was only wet
weather data. I would agree with those comments and
would like to reiterate those.

We also have some concerns regarding the rationale, if you would, for in 1998 listing establishing fish histology, algae and the high coliform count as the basis. These are more conditions and indicators rather than specific pollutants and we believe till there can be more specific analysis as to what pollutants would lead to that rather than some naturally occurring phenomenon or hydrobiologic conditions and things of that sort, these waterbodies should be put on the watch list rather than the 303(d) list.

I disagree with some of the comments that were made by a couple of speakers before me regarding the Coyote Creek, for example, and San Gabriel River, at least through our city's, as not being flood control channels. They are flood control channels. Yes, there is a title "River" used for them. They are fully lined edge to edge. There is no water in them 11 months out of the year. Beneficial use of those waterways should be carefully analyzed as to how it's achievable. And a designation otherwise I believe is erroneous.

Thank you for the opportunity. We really

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1 In the interests of brevity and not repeating what's 2 already been said --

MR. SILVA: I appreciate that.

MR. BRAR: -- I will keep my comments to some of the issues that are important to us that have not already been said.

I agree with a lot of comments that have been made before you related to the watch list concept. We support the watch list concept. Our rationale for that is that until it's in some conclusive form shown that the pollutants that are identified are the cause for the impairment, there is some good scientific data behind it that supports it, those waterbodies should be on the watch list and not on the 303(d) list.

We're pleased our city is located on the southeast portion of L.A. County. We border Orange County. We have two waterways that run through our city. On the western side it's the San Gabriel River and on the south-eastern side it's the Coyote Creek Channel.

We are a little bit concerned about some of the items that are being identified for Coyote Creek Channel as the basis for being put on the list, primarily the metals. There was some testimony earlier today which stated that the data used for Coyote Creek Channel was

appreciate the process that is taking place and the

3 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

opportunity to participate. Thank you.

Pat Malloy?

MR. MALLOY: Good afternoon, Board Member Silva. My name's Pat Malloy. I am Director of Public Works for the City of Arcadia. You have my address.

You won't need that green sheet of paper. I'll be pretty brief. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to stand before you here this afternoon to discuss the very important listing process.

First I'd like to stress that the City of Arcadia is strongly committed to clean water. And I'd like to reaffirm our willingness to proactively pursue that goal. However, we're a small city nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, covering only 11 square miles, with limited means. So any new clean-up action that we must take needs to be clearly defined and based on sound scientific analysis.

Arcadia's drainage area comprises of three significant washes which carry runoff water out of the San Gabriel mountains. I've been informed that you have a tributary rule that says although washes are not specifically listed as impaired we could be included in regulatory actions for Rio Hondo or even for the Los

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Angeles River because our drainage passes through those two waterways before it reaches the ocean. We submit that it would be more productive for the board to actually specify impairments for waters rather than implicating them by reference.

Our storm water which discharges to the Rio Hondo is currently listed as high coliform output count at the spreading grounds. Unfortunately that term is not sufficiently defined. What specifically does high coliform count mean? Does coliform originate from human, animal or from other sources?

Due to this uncertainty we believe that the listing of Rio Hondo as impaired for high coliform count should be deleted or at the very least it should be instead placed on the watch list to determine what sort of coliform is causing the high count so appropriate measures can be taken as necessary.

I'd like to point out that the Rio Hondo spreading grounds are managed to percolate water to the ground water table for future use. Water contact recreation and even non-contact recreation is not there.

22 Again, we share the board's desire to achieve water quality improvement and stand ready to do our part 24 but in order to maximize results we urge you to incorporate our recommendations into the final list so

provision as an offramp to listing, and listing waterbodies with direct beneficial use impact. And I'll take a moment for each of those concerns.

On the watch list, Region 4 agrees in principle with the concept of a watch list where data or information suggests the standards are not being met, if the data or information is adequate to confirm that the standards are not being met. However, Region 4 has serious concerns about state board's decision to establish a watch list at this late point in the process.

Region 4 is concerned because Region 4's staff set minimum data requirements necessary for listing of waterbodies and did not consider waterbodies for listing or delisting where insufficient data were available. Because the state board did not define the scope or nature of the watch list at the outset of Region 4's water quality assessment, there may be some cases where waterbodies or pollutants were not considered because of inadequate data.

This after-the-fact analysis creation of a watch list results in an inconsistent application of a poorly defined list. In other words, we did not look at many groups of pollutants because there were less data than we considered necessary to define it as impaired.

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our limited resources can be directed to those waters 2 where beneficial uses are actually impaired. Thank you 3 for your time.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Jon Bishop?

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MR. BISHOP: Thank you. My name's Jon Bishop. I am with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments.

In a majority of the cases Region 4 agrees with the state board's recommendation regarding additions and deletions from the 303(d) list. We have sent a letter detailing our comments to your staff and I will not go into detail today. I will just summarize a few of the major points.

I'd like to mention that there were some discrepancies between the Region 4's recommendations and the recommendations of the state board staff which we've been able to resolve through clarifying discussions with state board staff and we appreciate that opportunity.

23 In general, there are four -- three areas of 24 concern that Region 4 still has: The use of the watch 25 list, application of alternative enforcement program

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Region 4 is also concerned that the watch list 1 2 has not been applied perfectly as defined in the state board's staff report. Specifically there are

4 waterbodies that are recommended for watch list where 5 state board staff has identified an alternative program

but it is not enforceable; two, waterbodies that have 6

met regional board's assessment criteria; and, three, 8 waterbodies with direct beneficial use impact. Region 4

9 strongly recommends listing those waterbodies which are 10 identified in our written comments.

I'm just going to take one second to talk a little bit about the enforceable program alternative and then the direct impact. In several cases, state board indicated because there are alternative enforcement programs, namely, the bay protection and cleanup program, that the above listings -- that the listings should be instead placed on a watch list.

Region 4 acknowledges that the Consolidated Toxic Hot Spots Cleanup, Volume I, Policy Toxic Hot Spots List and Findings released by State Resources Control Board in June of 1999 says that the regional board shall implement the remedial portions of the consolidated plan to the extent that the responsible parties are identified and funds are available and allocated for this purpose.

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However, Region 4 must argue that responsible parties have not been identified, staff funding has not occurred since 1999 and there's -- no other money for implementation of remediation plans has been allocated. Therefore, although a program may exist it cannot be relied upon as an active alternative enforcement program to effectively address these issues.

Additionally, Region 4 recommended the listing of San Gabriel Estuary for trash. However, the state board indicated because there was an alternative enforcement program, namely the MS 4 permit, that this item should be placed on the watch list.

However, the storm water permit distinguishes between areas with TMDL's or trash and areas without it, which makes the idea that this is an alternative enforceable program inaccurate.

And finally, we are concerned about putting items that have direct beneficial use impact, such as toxicity, benthic community degradation, water toxicity and/or sediment toxicity on a watch list. These are direct impact to the beneficial use for aquatic life and as such are not insufficient in and off themselves to show that there is a impairment.

Thank you very much.

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25 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

beneficial use is no longer impeded or when previous
listings were based on thresholds or guidelines that
were insufficient for determining impairment.

To that I would add listings should also be removed where there that is insufficient data. A watch list should be adopted for waterbodies for which there is insufficient data to warrant a 303(d) listing.

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Earlier I think the NRC report was cited. In that I'd like to remind you that there was discussion that evaluated data and evidence of violation of narrative standards should not be used exclusively for placement on an action list, but, in their terms, put on a preliminary list, which is the watch list. We think this provides the state and the regional board with the mechanism for improving the listing process.

Secondly, I'd like to thank the board for the additions of several delisting factors that were introduced in this 2002 303(d) revision. Some of these have been discussed. The alternative enforceable program now allows items to be delisted when there is another way of controlling those.

It was also encouraging that the Los Angeles regional board actually proposed dropping listings of impairments based solely on EDL's or elevated data level because they are not actually directly related to

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MR. WATSON: Good afternoon. This time I am before you representing the City of Bellflower. My name is Richard Watson. Address, 21922 Viso Lane, Mission Viejo, California.

I'm before you this afternoon representing the City of Bellflower, which was unable to send a council member and appropriate staff member because of the California Contract Cities Association Conference going on today. This is also true of several other cities that would have liked to have participated.

And I want to thank the board again for the opportunity to comment on these revisions. This is a very good process that you've undertaken and we want to thank you for coming down here.

I first want to commend the state board and the staff for making a significant improvement in the listing process through the incorporation of the watch list. The use of a preliminary list is an important step towards strengthening the basis for the TMDL program. It allows us to focus on well defined problems first.

As the Los Angeles regional water quality control board staff itself said in their report in the listings, listings of impairment should be removed in cases where recent information indicates that a

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adverse human or animal health impacts, really just a
 comparative statistical measure. So we think it's a
 good move as well. And also removing those places that
 were listed because of exceedances due to natural
 causes.

However there are several problems that remain with many of impairment designations identified in the 303(d) list. For example, in an number of instances specific pollutants were not identified. And without details on specific pollutants or consistency of impairment designation among regional boards, such listings remain arbitrary and without practical or legal support.

As noted in the Clean Water Act, the 303(d) list must include a description of the pollutants causing the violation of water quality standards, and I have included the citation in the written version of my testimony.

Generalized conditions of impairment are not pollutants. They are not causing the impairments and thus are inappropriately triggering the development of TMDL's. Rather than including conditions as impairments on the 303(d) list itself they should be instead placed on the watch list. This list will enable the regional boards to better identify what's causing the impairment;

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in other words, specify the pollutants required by the
 303(d) portion of the act and for which then TMDL's can
 be properly identified or prepared.

The following are a few examples of some of the general conditions for which the 303(d) list of pollutants are not identified. Beach closures, toxicity, color, degraded benthos, turbidity, eutrophication, benthic community degradation.

Each of these conditions are not pollutants and have been inappropriately included in the 303(d) list in the past. They should be placed on the watch list for possible future actions.

Furthermore, in Region 4 any listing related to the MUN designation that's asterisked on table 2.1 in the 1994 L.A. basin plan should be removed from the 2002 list because of EPA's recent approval of the entire 1994 plan and the direction to the regional board about the designation of MUN uses.

Thank you again for the steps that the state board has taken to improve the 303(d) list and for this opportunity. We think you're really making progress. Thank you.

23 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

That's all the cards I have for Region 4.

25 Anybody I missed or would like to comment on Region 4?

other news agencies.

Our city takes great offense as being labeled as having the dirtiest beaches in Southern California when in fact we have eight and a half miles of some of the cleanest beaches, according to Heal the Bay.

However, having said that, we have one notoriously bad section and that is the mouth of the Santa Monica River. Huntington Beach hasn't given lip service to water quality. We have taken action. We have spend millions investigating beach contamination. We have sewer-lined all of our leaking sewer lines. We are in process of becoming possibly the first California city to deal and adopt a water quality master plan. We've passed an unpopular sewer fee and we are investigating passing an urban runoff fee.

We are also one of the few cities that has not protested the new NPDES permit requirements, despite the fact that we expect it to cost us a half a million dollars a year. We recognize that we're the low end of the plumbing in Orange County and prove it with our 25 lift stations and our 15 storm water lift stations.

We have a lot of expensive infrastructure, but we also recognize and are cognizant that we're the stewards of eight and a half miles of Orange County's best beaches which attracts millions of visitors from

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1 Okay.

Why don't we try -- we need a lunch break.
Come back at 1:30.

(Recess)

MR. SILVA: Why don't we get started. I realize probably not everybody's back, but I'll just start naming names and whoever can make it -- I will go back to people that are probably still having lunch so -- but so we can get going.

Debbie Cook. I apologize to the people who were here earlier.

MS. COOK: My name is Debbie Cook. I am the Mayor of Huntington Beach, and I really appreciate this opportunity to speak today regarding the listing of the Santa Ana River as an impaired body. I just learned of this meeting on Tuesday and so our county will not be taking up the matter until our Monday night meeting but I expect complete support from them for listing in light of all of our past efforts and will send a follow-up letter next week.

attracting visitors to the beach. People equate trash with pollution. Our city is reeling from some of the irresponsible press we have received in the last two weeks from "USA Today," Tom Brokaw, and some of the

Perception can be everything when it comes to

1 inland

Huntington Beach is taking care of business and we need to get our inland neighbors to recognize this as a regional issue. When someone throws his empty cup in the gutter in Santa Ana in the morning he just may be swimming with it that afternoon.

I'm happy to join the City of Newport Beach in supporting the listing of the Santa Ana River as an impaired body. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you. Appreciate your 11 patience.

Rene Aguilar?

MR. AGUILAR: Good afternoon. My name's Rene Aguilar. I'm a resident of Orange County and have lived in Orange County for about the past 25 years, most of my life, and I frequent the beaches, the local beaches, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, quite often, and I just want to give my perspective on the trash at the beach and also in the Santa Ana River.

I swim in the water and it's really an eyesore when I'm swimming in the water and I see trash floating next to me. You can stand on the beach and you can see the trash that washes up on the store.

I also ride my bike on the Santa Ana River from northern Orange County all the way to the mouth of Santa

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Ana River where it discharges into the ocean. Actually a couple weeks ago I was down there at the Santa Ana River and I couldn't help but notice all the trash that's all along the riverbed down there.

I actually walked down there and was looking at the trash and I took a look to the left and as far as I could see there was trash littered across the whole riverbed and then I looked to the right and the same thing -- trash littered across whole riverbed.

And then I couldn't help but think about the next storm that we have in the area. It's going to take all this trash that's in the river and wash it straight out into the ocean and then it will be ultimately deposited along the coast of our local beaches.

And I would urge the water board to list the Santa Ana River as being trash impaired, so that we can hopefully clean up this trash and enjoy the aesthetic value of our local coastlines. Thank you very much.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

20 Brandt Schmidt?

MR. SCHMIDT: Good afternoon. My name is

22 Brandt Schmidt and I have been a resident of Newport

23 Beach since 1983. For years now I've been surfing the

24 beaches of Newport and Huntington and as of right now I

25 will not surf within eyesight of the mouth of the Santa

1 Tom Crew? Still eating lunch. Okay. Peer 2 Swan?

MR. SWAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Silva. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here and also the opportunity to have a break after the meeting, as the stenographer did as well.

My name is Peer Swan. I live at 7 Terraza

My name is Peer Swan. I live at 7 Terraza
Drive, Newport Beach, and I serve as a director
representing the board of the Newport Coast Community
Association and the residents who live in the Newport
coast area of the City of Newport Beach.
The Newport coast is blessed having the Pacific

Ocean at its feet and is surrounded by an extensive wildlife habitat that was mandated to be part of the development process. The area is drained by a number of small creeks, six in number, that have been identified and I've submitted to you a list of these six creeks and an estimate of their respective drainage areas and the flow, you know, across the beach during dry weather flow periods. You will see in there that there is a not inconsiderable amount of flow in the three creeks that are being asked to be added to the 303(d) listing.

Also I would like to thank the staff for recommending that Muddy, Buck Gully and Los Trancos not be added to the 303(d) listing. Two of these three

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Ana River. I try to stay as far away as possible from the river mouth.

One reason is the non-visible pollutants that are perpetually draining out into the ocean and another equally important factor for me is the accumulation of trash at the river mouth.

One of my favorite aspects of surfing is the aesthetic aspect, the sense of kind of being out in nature's domain. And nothing disrupts that enjoyment for me like sitting out in the water and seeing a chunk of styrofoam or a plastic bottle float by, not to mention ducking under the water and getting up and finding a plastic bag or some other piece of trash clinging to my body.

That being said, the river mouth in my opinion is one of the worse, if not the worse, beaches I've seen with regard to the accumulation of trash along the coastline. And I think it's a tragedy that myself and other surfers I know virtually consider that part of the coastline adjacent to the river mouth to be virtually off limits as far as water contact goes.

That being said, I support listing the Santa
Ana River as an impaired body due to trash. Thank you
very much.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

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creeks have already -- are already being operated under about BMP's that divert the dry weather flow to sanitary

3 sewers during a substantial portion of the year. The

4 third is the subject of a planned and voluntary program

5 to significantly reduce the flow and consider dry

6 weather diversions. This is all being done under the
 7 county's permission.
 8 The remaining three creeks are recommended to

The remaining three creeks are recommended to be added to the listing, and these drain a relatively small area and have virtually no dry weather flow across the beach. We would respectfully request that the board consider the deletion of these three creeks, the Pelican Hill creeks, from this listing.

I would like to emphasize that we in the Newport coast and on the board are strongly committed to protecting and improving the water quality in our area. These are, after all, our beaches where our children and our families go, you know, right at the foot of the hill that we live on.

We believe that water quality improvement can best be accomplished by implementing the BMP's contemplated in the County of Orange recently adopted MS 4 program. We think the recent results in the coast as far as the quantity and quality of the water going

25 into the ocean have made significant progress and we are

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encouraged by this and think that that will continuously 2 improve.

We believe, as we have previously stated in writing to this board, that the process of listing of any of the coastal creeks at this time is flawed due to the failure to identify these creeks in the county's basin plan prior to assigning the water quality standards. We think that you have to identify the creeks in the basin plan prior to establishing water quality standards.

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As we understand it, if the proposed listing is realized that it would mandate water quality standards on the entire length of the creeks from the top to the bottom and without regard to any natural attenuation in the creek or any diversions to the sanitary sewer or other BMP's implemented lower in the system. And we think that would be a mistake, especially since very little dry weather flow goes across the beach.

We are also concerned that the extensive habitat through the drainage area complicates the issue and for which the homeowners should not be held responsible as the habitat was mandated by another state agency as a condition of the development.

As a parent who uses the beaches I stay out of the water after storms. I don't let my family go in

going to be done in the future it needs to go through a 2 separate and distinct planning process with public 3 input.

The ramification of listing the thousands of small drainage creeks along the state's waterways, especially those not identified in the existing basin plan, is considerable and has little benefit. We believe that existing permits will over time bring the most significant of these creeks into compliance while not detracting from the focus on more significant waterways.

Again I'd like to thank the staff. I'd like to thank you, Mr. Silva, for patiently listening to all of us through this and allowing us to have lunch and the Krispy Kream donuts. Whoever brought those I appreciate that, even though my wife won't.

I appreciate you're not adding to the list Muddy, Buck Gully or Los Trancos and we would request further consideration to delete from the listing the

20 three small Pelican Hill creeks and allow the existing 21 permits to handle the cleanup process through about

22 BMP's. I think especially looking at the reasonable

23 insignificance of the drainage area and the amount of

24 water going across that this would not be the highest

25 priority item that we would consider today. And thank

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after, you know, storm water events. I don't think that's wise any more than I would let my children play on the Coast Highway. I mean, it's almost common sense.

And I would not let my kids, you know, lay in any kind of runoff that went across the beach either. I think that is also common sense. Nor would I take pictures of anyone doing that. I wouldn't let them be there.

It's been curious to me that -- forget that. Finally, none of the coastal streams are planned as a future source of drinking water or for municipal use. I think that we've done extensive work in Southern California, especially after the Kewell bill and the Coster bill, identifying all our future water needs for the next 20, 30 years. And none of these areas in the coastal creeks areas or in much of the rest of Orange County have been identified as municipal use.

And so with over 30 years of visibility out into the future, it would seem premature to line them up and identify them as has been done in the staff report talking about these creeks. They've been deemed or listed as municipal use.

These creeks have not been identified in the 24 coastal plan and have not heretofore been identified as either having recreational or municipal use. If that's

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you very much for your time.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

3 James Ross?

> MR. ROSS: Mr. Silva, thank you for allowing us to come here today. My name's James Ross. I'm the executive director of Public Works for the City of Santa Ana. We have -- I'll be very brief. We have submitted a letter from our mayor and our main concern is the designation of Delhi Channel on the 303(d) listing.

And, you know, I would like to point out Delhi Channel, unlike some of the other channels that perhaps are being used for storm drain purposes that previously were creeks or rivers, Delhi has never been a creek or a river. Delhi was an irrigation ditch back in the forties. It was improved with riprap and concrete lining on the bottom. It's fenced. It's simply a part of the storm drain system and is no different than the pipes in the grounds that also serve that system.

So that is my main message. I would refer you to the letter that we submitted. I'd refer you to the comments that were previously submitted to you by the County of Orange, Mr. Larry McKenney came up and spoke, and I'd also refer you to the fact that at the Santa Ana

regional board meeting there was considerable discussion

25 about the 303(d) listing and reservations by the board Page 150 Page 152

about the designation of Delhi, whether that was an appropriate listing for that particular channel.

And in fact the executive director of the California Regional Quality Control Board did send a letter I believe that you also have identifying what took place at that meeting and some of the reservations that were expressed. So with that I just refer you to those three documents and thank you very much for your time.

10 MR. SILVA: Appreciate it.

11 Mike Loving?

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MR. LOVING: Mr. Silva, Staff. My name's Mike 12 13 Loving. I am the NPDES coordinator for the City of 14 Irvine and I thought is was interesting that a couple of 15 the previous speakers spent a lot of time at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. I do as well. I fly fish there 16 17 year round, during, before and after storms and times in 18 between. And I have to share their concerns. It's 19 really an eyesore. I've had more than a few pieces of 20 litter attached to my body in the process of fishing in 21 that location.

On behalf of the city I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 303(d) list and in the interests of the time I'll try to keep my

24 25 comment brief. 1 This is not the case with fecal coliform.

2 During my reconnaissance I found an abundance of 3

wildlife in the channel. I found coyote, birds, fish

4 but I also found a significant amount of animal waste.

In fact over the years I've seen -- just an example --5

I've seen coyote, raccoon, possums, rabbit, peregrine

ducks, hawks, owls and innumerable other species in the 8 creek, swallows build hundreds of nests on bridges

directly over the water in the creek and I've even seen

10 pelican feeding on carp at the confluence of Peters 11 Canyon Wash, many miles from the ocean.

We take third grade classes on tours to the channel to show them this wonderful little slice of nature. But we also show them the shopping carts and other debris to emphasize that it's everyone's responsibility to keep pollutants out of our waters.

17 It's obvious that fish and wildlife beneficial 18 uses in San Diego correct are appropriate. How could 19 they not be? Fish and wildlife are going to be in the 20 creek regardless of beneficial use designations. 21 However, large amounts of naturally occurring waste are 22 also associated with these uses.

One has to draw the conclusion that if pet waste creates a water pollution problem and we're required under our permit to reduce this waste, a

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In addition to fully supporting the concerns expressed by the other stakeholders today, a particular concern to the City of Irvine is the listing of San Diego Creek Reach 1 as impaired due to fecal coliform.

It's going to be somewhat difficult to not state issues previously discussed, so I'd like to share with you some personal observations to illustrate our concerns.

I recently walked about a 2-mile reach of the San Diego creek to do a reconnaissance for an upcoming creek cleanup later this summer. To my surprise I foundation less debris in the channel than I expected. But there were some problem areas.

For example, the pipe draining the 405 freeway into San Diego Creek was totally clogged with litter. There were dozens of the shopping carts in the creek. Terrible evesore.

17 18 Now, even though it's impossible to remove all 19 the debris and litter from the creek, the City of Irvine 20 believes that this material can be reduced in 21 significant levels with more effort on the part of all

22 the stakeholders. This is one pollutant that we can

remove from our waters effectively with very low tech 23

solutions. This is not rocket science. We can see it 24 25 and therefore we can pick it up.

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greater amount of waste from wildlife deposited directly 2 into our waters would create even larger quality problems. For this reason we don't believe MUN and

4 Rec 1 uses are compatible with wildlife uses.

I won't comment any further on comments previously made about the appropriateness of swimming and Rec 1 uses in flood control channels. Our concern with Rec 2 uses does not lie in the use itself but rather with the unattainable water quality objective linked to this beneficial use.

In conclusion the City of Irvine respectfully requests that the board take action to assure that the 303(d) list and associated beneficial uses result in realistic water quality objectives for the stakeholders and we offer our assistance to work with your staff to get this result. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

18 Gary Brown?

> MR. BROWN: Good afternoon. My name is Gary Brown, Orange County Coastkeeper executive director. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today

22 and express our issues and concerns over the 303(d) list

23 and certainly we want to thank the hard work that the 24 staff of Region 8 has gone through in developing this

25 303(d) list as far as the recommendations.

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We virtually supported the recommendations by the regional board to the state board for the inclusions and deletions on the 303(d) list. However, we want to specifically talk about the coastal creeks.

Last year it was our organization that submitted the coastal creeks for inclusion on the 303(d) list and one of the reasons in spending time down there -- and we have spent a lot of time on the Newport coast dealing with issues and the ASBS and drainage and future flows going into the ASBS -- and we noticed that in Buck Gully in particular there were a lot of kids on a daily basis, adults, children and toddlers playing in the flow as it meanders across the beach into the ocean.

And it was such a concern to us that we went to the city, we went to some other agencies, and basically we took the initiative, got an emergency permit, and we funded and installed a diversion in Buck Gully for last year's summer flow to take about 125 gallons a day out of the creek to the sewer treatment plan and keep it away from the beach, because it wasn't an occasional thing. It was a daily basis.

What we found is a lot of mothers bring young children and fathers too bring young children down to the beach and the flow coming across the beach is so much less intimidating to a toddler than having them

1 interrupted and have changed the historic flows and so2 it's up to us to resolve it.

We're working together in Buck Gully to come up with some BMP's and put some stakeholders together and do this. However, in the meantime I think that it's incumbent on the state board to include Buck Gully on the 303(d) list, in that even though it had -- these creeks had not had previous designations for water quality objectives in the basin plan, we think that with adequate proof that there is existing and ongoing recreational uses that they should be included. Thank you very much.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Silva, may I have a clarification?

Mr. Brown, have you submitted the documentary evidence of the existing uses to the state board?

MR. BROWN: Yes, we have.

MR. WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. SILVA: Molly Calkins?

21 MS. CALKINS: Thank you, Mr. Silva, Chief

Wilson. I am Molly Calkins on behalf of Defend the Bay

23 at 471 Old Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach. I am also

24 a member of the AB 192 public advisory group. Thank you

25 for this opportunity to comment as well as for extending

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play in the surf and so under their parents' supervision they had kids playing and we have sent to the state board even photographs of toddlers cupping their hands and drinking water out of Buck Gully. And so that was -- it has been a very extreme concern to us.

Our concern about the state's recommendation is basically of the coastal creeks you've kept -- included on the list, the creeks that have no dry flow and have the least amount of flow, and Buck Gully, the one that has the major flow, 250,000 gallons a day, and we have proven beyond a question that there's been a long time existing Rec 1 and Rec 2 use there, that's the one you've decided to delete. And it totally doesn't make sense at all to us. And that's our major concern that we want to express today.

And certainly people say these coastal creeks shouldn't be on the list because they have a high background levels of bacteria to begin with. And, yes, that's true. But what you have to figure is that up until very recent history, until we developed that, that these creeks only ran when it rained and people didn't go out and recreate during a rain storm or right after.

And now these creeks flow perennially and they flow daily -- June, July, August, September, October, when there is not a cloud in the ski. So we have

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the period for written submissions. We will be submitting written submissions before the June 15th

3 deadline.

Today I'd like to make four points. First, impaired waters should not be delisted. I agree with the comments previously made by NRDC and Heal the Bay representatives, so I'll speak specifically to a couple of water segments in Region 8.

These revisions propose delisting Newport Bay and San Diego Creek for various pollutants and the reasons stated in the revisions are -- I quote -- "TMDL's have been incorporated into the basin plan and approved by USEPA."

Now, just because TMDL's have been incorporated and approved does not mean that these waters are no longer impaired. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires listing of impaired waters. So delisting waters that are still impaired would constitute a violation of the Clean Water Act.

Second, we support eliminating the watch list as well as TMDL's completed list. Again we agree with comments previously made on this issue. I want to emphasize that Section 303(d) says that impaired waters must be listed and it does not provide for any side lists or alternative lists. Therefore, listing impaired

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waters on any other list beside the 303(d) list would constitute a violation of the Clean Water Act.

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Third, we support adding Newport Bay to the 303(d) list specifically for impairment due to trash. Trash impairs the beneficial uses of Newport Bay as they are listed in the basin plan. Recreation is an important beneficial use of the bay. Trash, being the most visible type of pollutant, impairs the aesthetic beauty of the bay and it hinders the enjoyment of 10 visitors to the bay.

Navigation and commercial fishing are other beneficial uses. Trash in the bay fouls boat propellers, it clogs cooling intakes, damages hulls.

In addition, wildlife and vegetation are impaired by trash in the bay that includes habitats for rare, threatened, endangered species.

Newport Bay really is a treasure and we need to protect it from trash as much as from any other pollutant.

Now, fourth and finally, we also support adding the Santa Ana River to the 303(d) list for impairment due to trash. I agree with the comments already made by Debbie Cook, Mayor of Huntington Beach, as well as by Rene Aguilar and Brandt Schmidt. As with Newport Bay, trash hinders the

First of all I'd like to start off by saying that Irvine Ranch Water District fully supports the state's efforts to improve the quality of the state's surface waters, including the state's 303(d) process that we're going through today.

Irvine Ranch Water District is a domestic water, waste water and reclaimed water utility. It is in the process of developing a regional project called the Natural Treatment System that would utilize a series of man-made weapons to treat urban runoff in the San Diego Creek watershed.

As a part of this project, Irvine Ranch Water District is proposing to construct in a number of the wetlands storm drain channels which will by their very nature attract wildlife such as waterfowl. The presence of waterfowl would make it nearly impossible to meet the bacteriological water quality objectives established for Rec 1 waters such as San Diego Creek.

As a result a treatment system designed to improve regional water quality, including upper Newport Bay, which is heavily used as a recreational waterbody, may violate the Rec 1 water quality objectives established for San Diego Creek, a waterbody with limited if any recreational uses. So our district is

concerned about that. We're hoping that can be

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beneficial uses of the Santa Ana River. People who 2 bicycle or stroll along the bay are confronted by large 3 amounts of trash. Fish that are dependent on the 4 river's warm fresh water habitat are impaired by trash. 5 Wildlife and vegetation, including habitats for rare, 6

threatened and endangered species, are impaired by trash in the Santa Ana River.

Now, that's in the river itself. As the others commented, trash from the Santa Ana River flows downstream into the ocean and eventually rides the tide back up on to the beaches. In this way trash fouls those beaches, it repels visitors, it even injures people when it comes to broken glass, other sharp objects. It decreases tourist revenue and it causes those cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach to incur high cleanup costs.

We therefore urge the state board to add the Santa Ana River as well as Newport Beach to the Section 303(d) list for impairment due to trash. Thanks very much.

21 MR. SILVA: Thank you.

22 John Hills?

23 MR. HILLS: Good afternoon. My name's John 24 Hills, the Director of Water Quality for the Irvine

25 Ranch Water District, 3512 Michelson in Irvine. addressed in this process as well.

As a result IWRD believes there is a need to revise the criteria used by the state in applying the various beneficial use designations to waterbodies, which we believe in some cases have been misapplied.

An example of this is the San Diego Creek. The San Diego Creek has low intermittent flows comprised predominantly of urban runoff. San Diego Creek has been designated as a municipal and domestic supply and new TMDL's for fecal coliform will now be developed to protect the San Diego Creek as such.

Now, as a water purveyor IRWD would not consider utilizing San Diego Creek as a domestic water supply. The flows, as I indicated, are intermittent in nature, the sources are sometimes unknown -- the sources of water in the creek, the quality of the water varies significantly, and there would be significant public perception concerns associated with our use of that as a supply.

One could argue that although it is not being used today as a municipal supply there is a potential that the San Diego Creek may be utilized as a water supply in the future, should the region's current supplies not be able to meet demands. This may be the case. However it's IRWD's position that beneficial use

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designations should be applied based on current uses,not future uses.

If in the future there becomes a need to utilize waterbodies such as San Diego Creek as domestic supply we have a process in place a 303(d) process we're going through today to address this concern by re-designating waterbodies such as San Diego Creek based upon new proposed use.

9 IRWD's main concern is that significant 10 resources are and will be expended in providing high levels of protection that may not be necessarily based 11 on the current uses of the waterbody. Therefore IRWD 12 13 requests that the state's criteria used in applying 14 beneficial use designations be revised to reflect two 15 things: First, current, not future, uses of the 16 waterbodies; and then, second, that the overall 17 watershed benefits of regional urban runoff treatment 18 systems such as the NTS be able to be realized in terms

MR. SILVA: Just to be clear, I think just a comment that to change use designations we have to go through regional boards.

of overall benefits. Thank you for your time.

MR. HILLS: Well, I wanted to bring that up because it's the effect -- the designations were made and now we're at a point now where it's being listed and note that we appear to be one of the few folks
 testifying today on behalf of the private sector impact
 on what you are evaluating today. We feel it's
 important to be here. We have a direct impact, direct
 interest in the revision of the Clean Water Act 303(d)
 listings.

First and foremost, our comments rely a lot on a letter that we submitted to the Santa Ana regional water board which I've included as an attachment dated April 26 and we want to commend you for your public hearing today and we also -- without sounding like it's a short-shrifted concept, we all, every single trade association that we're representing, agree with the clean water and promote what you're all attempting to do. Obviously we're involved in tourism, residential housing, and our businesses need the objectives that you're attempting to meet today.

We also want to commend your board for adopting the approach recommended by the National Research Council creating a watch list status for the waterbodies in question. We still do have many concerns. We've outlined them in the prior letter. I've outlined them today.

I've noticed several other of the cities at least have been representing some concerns, so I will

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then TMDL's are being established. When you ratchet it

2 back up, it's going back to the original designations

3 that are made and we feel it may not be appropriately

4 applied.

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MR. SILVA: Okay. Thank you.

6 Jim Oster?

Christine Iger?

8 MS. IGER: Hi. I am Christine Iger with the 9 law firm of Manatt Phelps and Phillips and I've had the 10 pleasure of being here since 9:00 and you're just doing 11 a wonderful job of listening to all of us.

12 I'm here to represent the private sector and I

have submitted some written comments on behalf of who Irepresent.

Briefly, without walking through all the organizations, I just wanted you to know that we represent 20 private sector trade associations,

18 including Orange County Apartment Association, Orange

19 County Realtors, Orange County Business Council,

20 California Association of Community Managers, the Orange

21 County Building Industry Association, and I don't want

22 to overlook any of the others, who include the Los

23 Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Just briefly again, I have referenced who those

organizations are and their large memberships and I will

just try to outline without speaking too fast for you some of the things that we are also wanting to point out.

We're concerned that the regional water board applied inappropriate water quality objectives and designated beneficial uses to many of the proposed revisions. The coalition that I represent, the 20 trade associations, believe that the selection of beneficial uses should be made with consideration of the condition of the waterbody, the overall advantage of achieving a given designated use, and the cost of achieving a designated use.

In particular, as you have heard, our coalition and others question the appropriateness of a beneficial use designation for flood control channels, concrete-lined channels and waterbodies with limited access.

Again, an example in Orange County is the Delhi Channel, which the City of Santa Ana just referred to, which is listed for MUN, Rec 1 and Rec 2 uses.

Mandating that that and other similar waterbodies of limited access or where access is illegal that it meet drinking water and recreational swimming standards is, we believe, an inappropriate application.

Furthermore, we'd like to urge your board to

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adopt an approach to regulating, maintaining and improving water quality through measures which are as technically proficient as possible.

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Specifically we ask that your board consider an economic analysis to evaluate the impact of implementing basin plan water objectives to non-point sources including storm water and urban runoff.

To insure that the designated uses are feasible and appropriate, we urge the state water board consider a use attainability analysis before developing any TMDL's.

And just quickly, in conclusion, I do have several of any coalition members here today, who, if they are still here, they do plan to testify as well. And I know that they will ask you to consider the economic impact, especially on their particular businesses and organizations.

We also would ask you to consider the need for developing housing, the probable future beneficial uses of any given waterbody. And, in conclusion, we would ask that you review each region's basin plan with

particular focus on the designated beneficial uses and 22

water quality objectives prior to adding waterbodies to 23 the final 303(d) listing. 24

We believe the 303(d) process contains

going to require a unified effort to solve it. We are, the BIA in Orange County, an active participant in finding solutions to the water quality problems that 4 we're facing and I'm telling you a lot of resources are 5 being dedicated towards that.

To start, our new communities are being developed with state of the art BMP's. We're talking about giving up lots of land, acreage to provide retention basins and clarification processes.

Secondly, we're actively involved in the local committees and coalition groups that include both public sector and environmental advocacy groups. We really are trying to be part of the team to find solutions.

14 Again, we want to see regional solutions. And 15 our comments are identified in the May 30th letter that Christine just dropped off. But regional solutions 16 which could be thwarted based upon the way the basin 17 18 plan is set up now and the designation of beneficial 19 uses -- I understand you indicated that's not really the 20 subject today, but we want to make it clear that some of 21 the waterbodies in Orange County that have been 22 designated for recreational uses maybe ought not to be 23 and there should be consideration of the condition of a 24 waterbody, the advantages of achieving a designated use, 25 and the costs of achieving a designated use.

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significant flaws in large part because of needed

2 improvements to the beneficial use designations and

3 water quality objectives. We urge you to work with us.

4 We want to work with you and we appreciate your time and 5 your participation today. Thank you.

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MR. SILVA: Thank you.

Mike Balsamo?

8 MR. BALSAMO: Good afternoon. My name's Mike 9 Balsamo and I represent the Building Industry Associates of Orange County. We are part of the coalition that 10 11 Christine just spoke of.

BIAOC is a nonprofit trade association, consisting of more than 1000 companies and more than 75,000 employees, in the business of providing homes to the residents of Southern California. Our membership includes home builders, subcontractors, suppliers, title companies, engineers, architectural firms and other

Many people -- or it's often said in Orange county our industry is the driving force of the Orange County economy. I want to state unequivocally that we are committed to water quality. We want to see it with reasonable regulation.

24 We think that this issue is a societal issue that affects everyone who lives in a given region. It's

types of construction-related companies.

Delhi Channel was mentioned. Newport Coast has been discussed today. Most of Central and South Orange County has hillside areas, you know, that have natural drainage courses that, you know, only see water intermittently throughout the year and even when there is water often it's six inches or less in depth and very infrequently has human contact.

We are just looking for reasonableness again about whether or not these should be designated for recreation uses.

The other issue, in terms of housing affordability, we already face a major crisis in California and we're not able to provide enough homes for the people that would like to live here and for our children as they get to the age where they might be able to buy homes.

Each new regulation -- not just these water board regulations but we're hit by a barrage of different laws that raise the cost of housing. No doubt that NPDES requirements, you know, in different technologies that are being used to implement these regulations raise the cost of a home to, you know, a significant amount, and I just wanted to bring that to vour attention.

Again, we want to be part of the solution to

Page 170 Page 172 the water quality problems but we just want to see Region 8? 1 2 2 reasonable regulation and we think that the basin plans Okay. I think we're done for today. Staff, 3 should only identify waterbodies that really do have 3 any other comments or notes? Again, thank you for your comments. They will 4 recreation use, not otherwise. Thank you. 4 5 MR. SILVA: Thank you. 5 be looked at and listened to by the board and we will 6 Karen Conlon? also await your further comments, written comments, by 6 7 MS. CONLON: Good afternoon, Mr. Silva, Staff. 7 June 15th. Thank you. We're adjourned. 8 My name's Karen Conlon. I'm the president of the 8 9 9 California Association of Community Managers. We are a 10 statewide professional association whose membership 10 consists of the professional community managers who 11 11 12 manage the over 34,000 homeowners associations in the 12 13 State of California. 13 14 The homeowners associations represent 14 15 approximately 9 million homeowners of the 36 million who 15 live in California. If you're quick at math that's 16 16 25 percent of the population. That means that one in 17 17 18 four live in some form of community association. 18 19 Our focus at CACM is to educate the manager who 19 20 can then educate the consumer to run their association 20 21 accordingly. They are regulated by a variety of laws 21 22 and mandates that the legislature and folks like 22 23 yourselves mandate that they must adhere to. 23 24 Our concern is that the burden that could 24 25 potentially become a cost factor to these associations 25 Page 171 Page 173 becomes problematic in enforcing whatever the mandate is STATE OF CALIFORNIA } 2 } ss. and also just trying to -- with a group of volunteers, 2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES } 3 which is what the boards of directors consist of -- try 3 4 to keep in compliance with all the regulations that 4 I, LINDA L. JACKSON, CSR 2985, do hereby 5 currently exist and continue to be mandated to our 5 certify: 6 associations. 6 That the foregoing proceedings were 7 I am TMDL-challenged. I am -- you name it and taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place 7 8 I am challenged. I am not the technical person here. I herein set forth and thereafter transcribed by computer 9 am a little overwhelmed by all the comments that have 9 under my direction and supervision, and I hereby certify 10 been made today, only because that's not my area of 10 that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct expertise. But I'm here to talk about the reality to 11 11 transcript of my shorthand notes so taken. 12 the consumer when these things happen, when these 12 I further certify that I am neither counsel for 13 standards are imposed upon the consumer. 13 nor related to any party to said action nor in anywise 14 interested in the outcome thereof. 14 So I think today I just ask that you consider

focusing on creating standards that'll create and earn public support as well as produce reasonable, sensible and appropriate applications that match the designated use and keep costs in line with the overall objectives of what we all want, and that's good water quality. Thank you. MR. SILVA: Thank you. I'll try the two people that were not present.

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23 Tom Crew and Jim Oster. No?

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Okay. That's all the cards I have. Did I miss anybody or anybody else want to say anything on

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           IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
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    my name this 13th day of June, 2002.
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                 LINDA L. JACKSON, CSR 2985
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